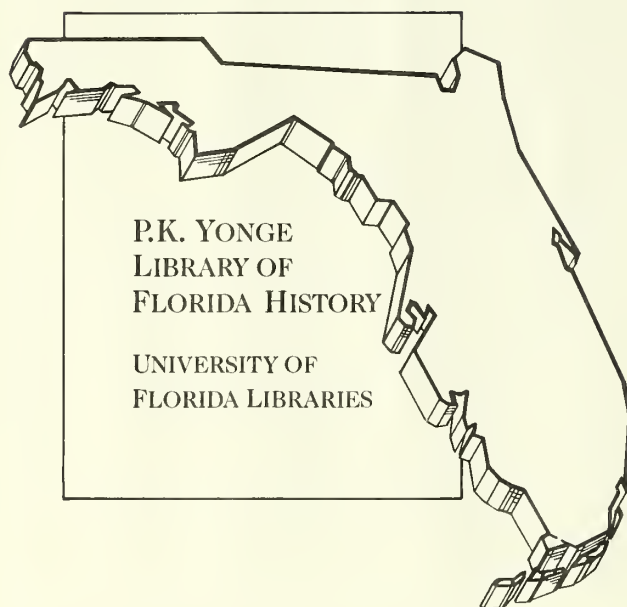


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Nickolas Alexander, (Greek)

Superstitions of the race and
personal ideas.

Mr. Alexander says that it an old and well-known superstition of the Greeks that if upon leaving for a journey either for pleasure or business the trip will undoubtedly turn out unpleasant or dissatisfactory.

Mr. Alexander also gives another one of the old superstitions: "When a baby is three days old you can tell what kind of luck he will have in life, when the baby is three days old the parents put on his pallet (his bed) the gold pieces and valuable coins if the baby cries and does not seem satisfied he will not be lucky and if he is happy and seems to enjoy the things then he will have good luck.

One more that is given by Mr. Alexander is as follows:
" When a girl is getting married and the fellow that loved her and didn't get her does not give her up and is resentful about her marrying another fellow and her mama puts a little trinket secretly in the brides clothes it will keep the bad luck of a childless marriage from following them; and it also helps to tie them together. But without the mother secretly tying some little thing like a keepsake to a slip strap or some place the couple will more than apt go through life without the blessing of children because the other fellow did not give her up and make her free to the man that she married.

He says there are many of them but he has forgotten them; he says that he remembers hearing his grandmother tell about putting things on a floor when a baby is first learning to walk and whatever he goes toward that is the way to tell what

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kind of a profession he will follow, for instance if you place a book some dirt and some food on the floor and he walks toward the food he will be a merchant or a restaurant man. This done by the old grandmothers to see what they will be when they grow up.

Mr. Alexander says that they are having an Easter service this year on the 28th of April; he added that he couldn't explain to me why this was different from the Easter date that was observed by the rest of the world, said that I should ask the priest. Last year the same date was observed throughout the world.

Mr. Alexander said, "Would you like to come and see just what kind of Easter service we are going to have? Come out to Ruby's place on the old St. Augustine road, about 8 miles and you will see something pretty and you will have a good time. #####"

At 12 O'clock midnight, Saturday we will have the beginning of Easter and then in the afternoon on Sunday we will have another Easter. You will have plenty to eat and everything will be fine, you may see a few men that have a little too much to drink but then their families will be there and it will be alright.

"We have to have lamb for Easter; the people in the old country raise the lamb that they are going to have for Easter in the house-he supposed to be very pure and that is why he is raised in the house. But we must have lamb for Easter nothing else will do.

Mr. Alexander says that he will be glad to have the church unite with the Episcopal Church. There has been some talk about it. "All churches should unite and there should be just one, like one God for all so there should be one church"

Annie Brown or Zembrakas
(wife of the third Greek —
to come to this city and
establish himself in bus-
iness) Manager of Burbridge
Annex, West Forsyth Street
Jacksonville, Fla.
Interviewed July 7th 1932
by L. Stedman.

Annie was born in Glasgow Scotland and married a Greek in her
native city at the age of 17. Her husband was a seaman and later
came to America and went to Galveston, Texas.

Upon arriving he met a man that told him that he must have a
brother in this country for he had seen a man in Jacksonville, Florida
that had a remarkable resemblance to him; this man turned out to be
his brother that had come to this country some 18 years previous
and had written home to his family. The man in Jacksonville was notified
that his brother was in need of funds to come to Jacksonville and
George Leco who was established in the fruit business sent him money
to come; they were delighted to see each other and George gave his
brother Peter half interest in his business and after a short time
he was able to send for the wife he had left in Scotland and their
three small children.

This was in the year of 1898, and a few weeks after the arrival,
the baby just 15 months old died. Since the father and mother were
married in Annie's church, the Catholic, it was only natural that
it officiated at this time although Annie was not a devoted
member of that faith. Annie had never decided to accept her husband's
religion.

There were few Greek churches in this country at that time and
none in the south. Annie says that even though there were no
churches of his faith here he would not attend her church with her and
therefore they did not attend the church as frequently as they would
have had he cooperated in helping to take the little ones.

nd greek in Jacksonville

George Laco the brother?
Why different name?

Annie Brown or Paprakas
(wife of the third Greek — ?
to come to this city and
establish himself in bus-
iness) Manager of Burbridge
Annex, West Forsyth Street
##Jacksonville, Fla.
Interviewed July 7th 1939
by L. Stedman.

Compare with

Peter Laco

Annie was born in Glasgow Scotland and married a Greek, in her native city at the age of 17. Her husband was a seaman and later came to America and went to Galveston, Texas.

Upon arriving he met a man ^{who} ~~that~~ told him that he must have a brother in this country for he had seen a man in Jacksonville, Florida ^{who} ~~that~~ had a remarkable resemblance to him. ^{George, who} this man turned out to be his brother, ^{had} ~~that~~ had come to this country ^{about} ~~some~~ 16 years ^{before} ~~previous~~ and ^{George} ~~the man in Jacksonville~~ not written home to his family. ~~The man in Jacksonville~~ was notified that his brother was in need of funds to come to Jacksonville and George Laco who was established in the fruit business sent him money to come. ^{they} were delighted to see each other and George gave his brother Peter half interest in his business and after a short time he was able to send for the wife he had left in Scotland and their three small children.

This was in the year of 1896, and a few weeks after the arrival, the baby just 15 months old died. Since the father and mother were married in Annie's church, the Catholic, it was only natural that it officiated at this time although Annie was not a devoted ~~member~~ member of that faith. Annie had never decided to accept her husband's religion.

There were few Greek churches in this country at that time and none ~~in~~ in the south. Annie says that even though there were no churches of his faith here he would not attend her church with her and therefore they did not attend the church as frequently as they would have had he cooperated in helping to take the little ones.

"

Also she states that, there is not a vast difference in the Catholic religion and the Greek Orthodox. Some of the principal differences are that the Greek Priest must marry before he can be ordained into the priesthood and also have had a child.

Some times her husband would talk of having the children learn to speak the Greek language and they would say, " No papa we are Americans, we not want to learn Greek. ##### He did not force any part of it upon them, but did insist that one child be christened in the Greek Church, later, which was done . But Annie states, "She was also christened after, in the Catholic church which he did not know anything about.

"The children learned to speak some phrases in Greek because of association with their father, but could not carry on a conversation in the language. They could say more bad words in the language such as curse words ##### than any other kind.

Mr. Laco became interested in the sponge business in Marion Springs, and would make trips to and from the city by train when necessary but as a general rule he spent most of his time in Jacksonville attending to his fruit business which was at that time on Main Street in the Purogotts block.

"My

husband never sang or showed any signs of happiness for he had a bad stomach and suffered most all the time. I think it turned in to a cancer because for he had so much pain and spent so much money trying to get better.

"After he died and left me with the five children I was not looking for a husband but another Greek came along and seemed kind and wanted to marry and take care of the little children for me. So I married another Greek and if I was to marry again I think I would get another Greek for they are very good husbands.

"When I marry again, this time I go to Greece to live for five years and take everthing I have to stay there for it is so poor the country. Much poorer than you can even think for we never have any such time as they have there in the economic conditions.

" They even had no tea and I am a great tea drinker as all the Scotch people are but sometime later on after I had made friends with the ship captain's wife I got all the tea I wanted for they got it in to me.

" We lived there in Piraes, Greece for five years while my husband was working on ~~the~~ the building of the railroad. We had two children born there and then ~~we~~ we come back to this country but I never forget the trouble I had in the country of Greece.

" Why do you know that a woman was never allowed to go out in the streets alone even in the day time to the stores for there was danger of being robbed for only a few pennies, the whole time I was ~~there~~ there I never saw a woman go out in the streets alone. But it is funny they most all own their own homes but they do not have anything to eat hardly.

" The principal ^W occupation there is watch-making and the men that are experts at this can only demand a little salary for this delicate and trying job. I would not go there to live for anything on earth for it is nothing but fear and drudgery and starvation.

"The women are good pastry-makers and the men are good cooks, too, they all can cook one thing anyhow and that is a pot roast and every thing has tomatoes and onions in it.

" My last husband was very good to provide for my children and seemed to think as much for my own children as he did for his and he helped to raise all, that is one thing I can say, the race, they are a sympathetic and loving people, not cruel.

Tony Caranzas, Greek born in
Constantinople, Turkey.
Owner and operator of
Liquor store at 1019 West Bay St.
Home address 154 West Fifth St.

"I came to this country when I was a young fellow just the age of 16 and leave behind me my father and a sister. I had wanted to go to the great free country since I was a little child where you didn't have to fight all the time.

"The war between Italy and Turkey broke out in the year of 1911 and they wanted me to go to the lines and fight. I didn't want to go so I made myself hard to find till I can come to this country which was in the early part of 1912. I came here on an old Italian Liner. I landed in New York and did not stay there but a few days I wanted to go to Tarpon Springs in the sponge business.

"I went right away to the city of Jacksonville and from there to Tarpon Springs expecting to go there and work, I knew some Greeks that were working there already and they had told me to come there and go to work. Well I get there and all the boats are out and I don't know how long it would be before I could get to work so I think I should go on back to Jacksonville and get a job. I would like to stay in Tarpon Springs but the boats stay out then so long, they come in much oftener now than they did then. They use to stay out for as much three and four months.

"So I come on back to Jacksonville and get me a little old job washing dishes in a restaurant and pretty soon I was the cook there I had learned to cook before I came to this country. They pay me \$25. a month and let me sleep there on the place. I could save my money and had no expense. I saved enough money to go in business.

"I bought with another fellow a little club and we started the Greek-Syrian Club. You see the Syrians then had no club and they used to mix more with us than they do now. Religion has stopped that because most of the Syrians are Catholics and the Greeks are Orthodox. We made a little money from the club and I soon sold out to my partner. I wanted a restaurant and I bought one down Bay street which I named the Manhattan Restaurant and that was in 1915 I stayed there and made pretty good until 1938. I even weathered the depression that came after the boom. And that was good don't you think?

"O, yes I made money during the boom and sold and got a lot of money too easy, when you get money without working for it it don't stay with you long, something always gets it from you. And believe me I lost a lot of it. I bought a lot of ~~money~~ property in Miami New Smyrna and Jacksonville and some in Starke Florida. I lost most all of my holdings everywhere except here in Jacksonville. I even lost plenty of it here too but I still have a big apartment house on Liberty Street and a house in Riverside and the house next door to my home on Fifth Street in Springfield. I think though that we are going to have plenty of good times pretty soon, maybe a little boom but on a much more secure basis than that was.

"I have worked hard all the time since I have been in this country, that is the way to make money. Stay on the job and don't spend your profit for good times. Learn to save a little all the time even when times are good try to put a little in the bank and when times are better put more in the bank. I did not cry much about ~~losing~~ losing my money that I made from the boom it come too easy. The money that you work for they stay with you better.

a light salad with a glass of wine in the afternoon, or we might have some crackers with wine. The wine is the drink of friendship over in the old country. You do not see a drunk fellow on the streets there, maybe you will see one in a thousand. Here the poor fellows drink the most and are drunk more of the time. I like the liquor business very much there is not the work in it that there is in the restaurant business. And there is not so much to do. One does not have to have the expense that he must have in the other work. O, yes I must pay a very big tax but still I know that there is less expense in this than in the other one.

" If you go to my house now you will find about 15 gallons of wine and about twenty quarts of liquor, I keep some very good stuff there for my friends so when I want to show them a good time I have the stuff already. No, our women folks do not drink but very little. She may drink a little with her husband at the meal if she wants to. but as a general rule she does not like to drink like the men and the American woman does. We always drink when we eat but we are not going to drink unless we are eating. That is bad. And another thing we always drink good liquor and good wine. Good stuff does not hurt you. It is a good tonic for you.

" We have learned some good things about eating and drinking in Greece and Turkey that it is too bad that more American do not learn it would be good for them. One thing is that we eat out meat and ~~##~~ vegetables while they are fresh. We do not use much cold storage there and ice is very scarce also.

" Constantinople is a great city; like New York, a big port. People are there from every country in the world. And one thing is important to me is that all the money in the world is good over there some times you will find in a cash drawer as many as ten different kinds of money. Over here no money is good but the good old American dollar, Gee, I wish I could take in a little more of them. They look mighty good to me.

" I have traveled in a good many lands and of them though I like the United States best of all, it is a great country. It's a free country and you American don't know just what that means to us from a foreign country. Here the poor man's voice means as much as the rich man's does. It is wonderful to be able to make your ~~own~~ own laws. ~~Democracy~~ Democracy is the most beautiful word in your whole English language. I traveled in Roumania, Austria. Spain, ~~Spain~~, Italy, and Greece as well as my native Turkey, but to me there is only one country to live in and the ~~only~~ only one in the world worth fighting for is the U. S. Everyone here can make a living here, there is plenty of work for every one if he will really try to find it.

" I never turn a man away though if he says he is hungry I feed him it won't break me to feed him and I'd rather feed him than not. I have sent many people to the hospital when they could not pay for it themselves. I have many friends here because I have tried to be a friend to them. I am a member of the Masons and also of the Woodmen of the World and treasurer of the local ~~Ahepa~~ Ahepa, and I was treasurer for our church here for 4 or five years. Everybody likes me and if they don't I don't know it. I don't owe any money.

" Speaking of the prospects of good business for this country, I can't say about the country at large but for this state I think we are going to have good business and ~~plenty~~ plenty of it. Jacksonville is going to have very good times. This business is going to be on a much sounder basis than the boom every was. We are going to have another war though, we got to have one to ever get things straightened out.

" We got the best president that we ever had, they can't make any ~~##~~ better, He is the best in the history of the country.

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" When the war broke out I bought liberty bonds and war stamps I bought all of them that I could. I carry 20,000.00 worth of insurance to leave to my child for his education.

" O, I did not tell you about my little son, he is the sweetest little fellow in the world. I thought that I would never have ##### a little baby. I had to wait till I was an old man before the baby came to me. I am 56 years old now. I am happier though than I was ever before. I bought him a cute little ### play pen and a nice little doggie a fox terrier.

" He can have as good an education as he can take, the world is all his if he wants it. A boy or girl can get so much in this country that he can't get anywhere else in the wide world. There is nothing like the good old U. S. A. and I want my little son to grow up and appreciate the as much as I do.

" He must learn the Greek language he must get the foundation of a happy life. You see he must learn Greek to be able to converse with his own people. And also to know the business management in Greek. He must marry a Greek, we are very proud of race and hope to continue its strength as time goes on. We have always made an effort to grow good sturdy character in our children. There seldom one of our race in trouble with the law anywhere.

"The Greek race believe in the 'Survival of the fittest'; did you know that in the old country that that used to destroy a baby if he came in the world with any physical defects and consider that they had done no harm but a service to their race in not allowing it to ## grow up and be a care on the nation and in time perhaps do as is true in this country, fill up the institutions with helpless people to drain our tax payers.

" Speaking of teaching the children to speak our language reminds me of the school and the teachers. Every Greek here is given a certain quota to give to the school system and he feels it a duty and privilege to help maintain them. I always paid my quota and when it was necessary to increase the quota I did so gladly even though I did not have any child and didn't ever expect to have any. I am proud now that I had such an attitude about it.

"We pay our teacher all through the year not just through the school months as the Public School system does. And there is not one of them that makes less than one hundred dollars either and some of them get as much as 180.00 a month depending upon the number of subjects she teaches. Their work is very important and should be given every chance to continue their studies.

" We were interrupted by Mr. Pecras the business neighbor of Mr. Caranzas who operates a little lunch canteen next door to him. He appears most interested in the interview and at last suggested that I come in to see him, " Come in to see me and I will really give you a good story. I have been here a long time. My story ought to be good for I have seen a lot of things since I came here in 1904."

Mr. Caranzas was serving a customer, we had been ##### interrupted about every five minutes to sell minatures, which seemed to be the demand through the middle of the day. He sells them two for a quarter. Mr. Caranzas returned saying that "during this part of the day the business is not so good, I made about 40 dollars worth of business the first part of the day, and if the day goes as usual I will make about 50 or 60 this evening, when the trains come in the passengers come in and buy between trains.

#Mr. Caranzas continued, "The people here in this country drink all the time and that is not so in the old country. We all have our wine over herewith our meals. And over in the old country we usually have a

Jennie Castrounis (Greek)

2685 Dellwood Ave.

Piano Teacher, aged 19

~~The appointment for this interview was made by telephone and being somewhat unaware of the possibilities of the material for this story I immediately sensed a feeling security and well-being that no doubt existed within the walls of this beautiful new brick home~~

The appointment for this interview was made by telephone and I was somewhat unaware of the possibilities of the material for this story, but as my taxi drew up in front of the address in a heavy down pour of rain I at once felt a sense of security and well-being that no doubt existed within the walls of this beautiful new brick home that is situated on the corner of West Street and Dellwood Ave.

There was a thirsty new lawn and the grounds were attractively landscaped with young shrubbery, as I reached the porch and started to ring, the door was opened by, neatly attired young lady. Upon introducing myself and asking for Miss Jennie Castrounis she smilingly replied that, "I am she, wont you come in?" and on her face was a question as to why she should be consulted, it was then that I gave her the letter of introduction from Mr. Skipteris, the Greek Priest.

Jennie, appeared quite pleased that she had been chosen to tell of the customs of her race. She is the only daughter of two children and has had the advantages of a good education and having been ambitious and studious her story is interesting.

Well, I hardly know where you would like for me to begin, but I was born in Boston and my own father died when I was a baby my mother worked in the thread factory and took care of me, she later married a fine man that has been a good father to me. I love him just like he was my own father he has always tried to be just that to me, I went to school in Fernandina, Florida with the "Sisters" and graduated there in music and finished high school last year. No, We are not Catholic

but so many Greeks send their children to the Catholic school because we feel that the children get so much better attention and individual help there that they wouldn't get in the public schools .

We lived in Fernandina for five years and then daddy and mama came to Jacksonville, to open up a business here but my brother and I boarded at Fernandina so that we could go on to our school we ~~was~~ boarded at the school, the Sisters were so sweet to me.

I have ~~ambitions~~ ambitions to sing, and my music gives me so much happiness. I have 21 piano pupils now and have had more that but during the summer months the children want to rest up a little so I never have so many then. I also have some American children they are very sweet and some are so interested in there music and ~~are~~ are interested in my Greek music and the little Greek children of-course want to learn the Greek music.

We have a little dance that is used very much at the weddings that tells a beautiful story, I am not so good at translating Greek ~~into~~ into English but I will tell you a little about it, the music is very pretty and if you could hear it it would bring tears to your eyes, it is ~~something~~ something like this: When the soldiers come back from the war or if they come into a town they are given the full liberty to do as they please and they do not please to be good at all they are bad and do terrible things, they are allowed to do anything with a girl or a sister they would want to and the people know that the soldiers are coming so they are frightened and a mother throws ~~her~~ her little six year old daughter over the mountain so that she will not be brutally treated by the soldiers for they do not care about how little the little girls may be, that piece is beautiful but is sad and rollicking at the same time and is often played at weddings for to dance by.

Our wedding customs are not so much different from yours except that we all usually have a gala time, every one. It is a happy thing to attend a marriage for everyone enjoys himself, we have a fine banquet and some times the grown people that is the married ones ~~###~~ too much and get drunk, No, the single girls can not drink or the single boys either it make the parents feel very bad. We have a big dance usually after the wedding. You know of-course that we have the bridal wreath that is exchanged from the bride to the groom and then groom to the bride this they keep on until after the big dance and everthing breaks up and the newly married couple do not leave and go away until the reception is over, every body dances with the bride and the groom dances with all the ladies.

The ring ceremony is not compulsory but is followed by most every body, the man usually wears the gold ring and wife wearing the silver one.

As "Jennie told of the marriage customs her face was animated as though she ~~has~~ has had some joyous times herself when attending. "The wedding that was not long ago given at the Mayflower was a happy one, and too happy for the men got so drunk that they did things that is not in the marriage customs at all, the men even danced all ~~by~~ alone on the floor, they did not know what they were doing. We do a dance that is like the square dance of your people, only it is called something like a folk dance and the men are dressed in the style of the Sheppard boys and the girls are dressed as the sheppard girls, they are very pretty when dancing.

"The single girls can not leave the place of where the parents are at any of these functions and they can not leave the home either with a boy or man until they are engaged. We would not think of asking such a liberty, for we know that it would not be permitted and we would be thought crazy to ask. The girls are very much ~~protected~~ protected but the boys can go out if they want to but the parents dont like it ||

"The boys can even go with the American girls but our parents dont like for them to do it but they do it anyhow.

" There are not many eligible Greek boys in town and I am not # going to marry some old man that I do not love, mama tells me I should let some greek men come to see me but I tell her I rather not, I should much prefer to remain a single girls all my life than to marry some old man I do not love, Yes, mama th inks th t the older men are better for husbands but I do not like them for myself they are not so well educated and most of them were born in Greece and have had a hard time making money and have had no time to study English and I ~~will~~ would be unhappy with a man that had no education, we would have nothing in common, dont you understand ? My daddy he seems to understand how I feel about it.

" No, I ha e no boy friends at all, we do not have boy friends, but just girl friends, A Greek girl does not begin having the opposite sex to call on her until she is nineteen or more, you will not find a Greek girl in any of the jook joints unless she has sneaked, and sneaking doesn't pay, you just get yourself in trouble and then your parents do not trust you and no body else if they see you out. Not long ago I saw a girl out and I knew that she was sneaking and I made up my mind that I would not tell anyone about seeing her, and then some one told me that they had seen her and I said, "O, no you must be mistaken about that for I didn't want to have people to mistrust her. She is a sweet girl but if she doest that she will ruin herself and she will have no friends among t e Greeks here, now in New York and the larger cities they are somewhat moderating the question of allowing the girls to go out with company of men and boys, but I wouldn' care to ~~start~~ start it here for it would cause me to be co criticised that it would b reak my heart and it is not worth it, I had rather stay home . The only time that I really mind in on the big days like the fouth of July 12-

and Christmas, then it hurts me to stay home. All the girls that I know feel the same way as I do about getting out.

" We have a club though that we enjoy ourselves called the Daughters of Penelope, we have 26 in it now and we are going to soon start a membership drive, we are the daughters of the Ahepans, Ahepa stands for ~~the~~ American Hellenic Progressive Educational Association, and the boys have a club that is called the Sons of Pericleas. And the aim of these clubs is to take care of the needy Greeks and keep the government from having to administer help to our people for we are so grateful for this country that we have a desire to take care of the needy ones as far as possible, the Ahepa maintains a sanitarium in New Mexico where any sick Ahepan may go free of all charges and any needy Greek that may need medical care.

" We try to do all we can for the Greeks that are in need and keep them off the streets.

" You will excuse me while I answer the phone" Jennie is slight of stature and has just washed her hair and pinned it up to dry and keeps setting it, she has apologized several times that her hair is wet and as she feels unattractive, but this is in no case true for even with her hair so dressed, and her hose rolled down to her ankles and the little navy and white polka dot dress open at the neck, for this is a very hot day, she is still a very attractive girl, her eyes are large and impressive and her skin is without a blemish, but slightly darker than olive, she is pleasant and anxious to give any information, she reminds one of a little nun for she lives here with her music and singing as she does the tasks of the home which is indeed a thing of beauty.

~~The floors are lovely, but there are~~
~~colorful~~

The floors are lovely, but there are rich and heavy rugs that complement the color scheme that is carried out of green and gold in the beautiful Chesterfield living room suite, and the drapes and ~~curtains~~ are

expensive and there is much fine hand crochet in view on the divan and chair-backs. In the dining room there is a beautiful table cover made of silk thread constantly calls for admiration, the pictures are the better pieces of art and are in handsome frames. On a little what-not table in the corner of the room are many small pictures of the family and the relatives. The piano has an abundance of good music on it, in the sun-room the floor is stone and the windows are made shutter style with french window panes, there are flowers at the windows on attractive little flower stands, there are two galleries in here and the room is very bright and cheery, the living-room and dining-room and sun-room all open en-suite.

Jennie returned saying, "That was one of my little pupils calling to say that she would be a little late for her lesson."

"My daddy could tell you more about the conditions in Greece than I because he understands things about the country that I do not, and he has a sister with whom he corresponds that tells him about the news of the country."

"Mama, is that you, I heard some one and wondered if you were waking, come in. Mama this lady wants to get some information about our race so that she can put it in a book, I have been telling her that I could maybe you would like to tell her something too,

"I don't know if I could maybe, I come here a little child and my uncle he leave me in a boarding home when I was just 14 to get along as good as I good, but it is hard for me to get along for I no speak the language and have to go to work in the mills and study the language and O, I want to so bad, go back to my peoples, but I no could go for my uncle he bring me and he was educated man he speak seven languages when he come here and then he was going to educate me but no he get in town with the same time and leaves child in home and he do not come back so
Jennie, go get the lady something, some drink and something to eat,

" Make it good, Jennie and hurry . and to me, would you like to see my home? It is pretty, but it cost so much, I have to try to save to pay for it, My husband he say Aw, why dont you send the clothes out to the laundry, its to much trouble to you to wash them, but no I try to help him by washing and then I get so tired I have to lie down, and that is why you no see me until now, I take a nap, I so tired that have to .

Jennie now serves a delicious drink, made from cherry and sugar and ice cold water, and a sandwich and some chocolate candy,

Mrs Castrounis says, " Jennie you dont know how to make it good like; you went and put sugar and you supposed to put cherry s. run I wonder why it is so sweet and not dark enough, she dont know how to do much, she go to school all her life, and I work all my life. I want to make her smart and so she could make a good wife to a rich man if he come to her. But he no come, that she will have, she like her piano and she may not get married if she dont be careful.

" But mother dear, I^{dont} have to get married if I dont find someone that I love do I?

The mother shakes her head to us as though she dont understand this child of hers, but she has much admiration for her that is visible.

"My daddy he will tell you all the things that you want to know about Greece and the questions you ask me if you will wait for him to come to rest, he is not feeling so well and comes home to rest a little in the afternoon for an hour, he is taking the doctors instructions in doing that. He is losing all his hair, it is funny, he is losing it in spots even his beard is coming out, he has been to the skin specialist and he is giving him the treatment for it. He would like to talk for he never gets enough of talking.

" This is my brother Mike, he works with my daddy at the restaurant

" "here is daddy? He come with you?

" Yes, he is coming in, he is doing something to the car,###

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Mike is tall and handsome, much larger than the ordinary sixteen year old. He is busy getting a bath before his father gets ready to go back to the restaurant and does not take any time to chat. But his sister says that he has gone to school at Fernandina until two years ago and since then to the High School in the Springfield section and is now on the football team and although they have recently built their home in the Riverside section he is not going to change because of the pride he feels in the football team he is on.

Mr. Castrounis enters the room and is fondly greeted by his wife who asks kindly questions, Are you feeling some better, huh? Did you feel like talking to the lady she has a letter from the preacher, he says it is a good thing to tell her anything she wants to know if you feel like talking, Come John I will tell her, Dis is my hus'ban he talk to you, you have to excuse him not dressed up he been work'in. Jennie, get daddy something, no I get it for him.

Jennie smiles at me as if to say something about her family, there is much love expressed for each other.

Mr. Castrounis is very friendly and cordial saying, why sure I tell you whatever I can, I don't know if you can understand me very much cause I have been busy working and couldn't learn to speak so well the English, but I love it. The people are so good. America is the best country in the world for the foreigner. I come to dis a country a long time ago mebbe 35 year ago I will no forget the day I got to dis country, I left the boat at Ellis Island and the government officials they search me to see that have no sickness on me. or anything that I should not have, and then I get lost from the people that I come over here with on the boat and so I take the ferry and come into New York, and have my suitcases in my hands, both hands so full and I walk and walk and I no see a Greek at all and finally I begin to cry I was twenty-two but I cry the people so many and yet no body to know

my trouble or could understand the language I speak, so I just walk and cry and at last a beeg policeman, the biggest man I ever seen walk up to me and he something to me I look up like dis, (here he turns his head sideways and looks up)He say it again, very gruff and I no know what he say so I just shake my head and no say nothing, then he say, "Speak German"? and I just shake my head and nothing again, then he say, "Speak Italian?" and I say "No; I know some Italian and know he say Italian, Then he say "Greek" and then I smile very happy and he say yes. He understand then and take me by the arm and tell me come on, he take me to the corner where ther was a Greek and he say talk for the man, and talk to dis man, and he did. Then the man he ask me my trouble and I tell him I am lost from my friend s and that I gust get i from greece to day on the boat and my friends they ##### lose me, the big policeman he take me to the hotel where I find my friends and then I take a train to Virginia and then I get a Seaboard train for Tarpon Springs, dere I find my brudder nad my H'uncle , dey there in the sponge business and I go to work and make some money, but dere was no so much money in the coontry at that time, but I 'm not old enough to appreciate the money I did make and it do me no good nooch. Later I marry and get the widow with this daughter here and we have a son so I start a business of my own in Fernandina, a restaurant and ever since I make a living in the business.

" I marry a widow she make a good wife for she had a hard time with her life and she know how to help me. And we get along very good, we no quit like the American people do if we no like the wife, we like the wife she be good to us and we no can quit her but for only seven different reasons in the church. Just seven. and most Greeks ksep the rules of the church, but in Greece the government enforces the rules of the church, but in dis coontry they can doo like they want to about the religion,

" The ~~Pat~~ Patriarch he is powerfull in Greece he is the law dere just like the Pope has the power over the Catholics so does he have power over the Greeks all over, the Arch-bishop, he is in Long Island and he is under the Patriarch, But the people over in Greece they suffer under the ~~g~~ government rule for they are maintaining so much a big army that the people they suffer and they spend all to feed the army, my sister says that they can only have meat once a month, and that in Germany they are only allowed to have it once a week and the same in Italy, I dont like no Hitler or Mussolini.

"they got a dictatorship over there in Greece just like in Germany and Italy, and my sister, she lives in Athens, but she no allow to tell me much about the country for they read all the letters and if you say anything against the government they will run you out of it, the people suffer I know, but they no can write much to me about the conditions there.

" O, yes dis is the best country in the world I know, I'm a Demodrate I'm for Democracy alright, the president the do the best he can, some thing have to be done for the people and he do the best he can, I wish he will run for the third time, he would surely get back in the office a gain, he is a fine fellow, a friend of all the right things and the right peoples.

" I finish High School in Greece and study Greek mythology and that is the most interesting thing to study, my son he study same mythology and my daughter but they no know anything about it like they teachin my old country, it is very good.

" I got my books and I like to read them when I have time to, but I have very little time to read, I must be at the restaurant, that is a job you have to be there to keep the business going, I make good though I make a government loan to get this house built and it cost me 6,000 dollars and I buy new furniture for my home too, come see.

" I like the pretty home and I make my family happy too so it is alright, the house has# seven rooms and we got plenty of room, theres a garden for my wife and daughter to make flowers in and they keep a lot of them so I can take some to the business with me each day, make it look good to the people and I like them, I can say, my wife she make' em and I feel proud, you going back to town ### with me, I take you in my car, the boy he get it out of the garage and we will go my wife she go too# to see a sick friend and she take some flowers and my ##### daughter she go along to bring the car back, my wife she no learn to ##1 drive it yet.

" I go get my little Jimmie out of the cage for a little fun, he like to get out and play with me everyday when I come home, watch now how he kees me, t is bird is seven years old and I think he has old age ### trouble but he still sing so mooch he wak me up in the morning.

" Alright we will go, where you get out at? my da ughter she take you where you want to go, come see me again if I can do any thing to help.

Raye - Greek

Miss Jennie Castrounis

Singer

"Old Demos" and "Sta-Xena-Traho."

Miss Castrounis is a popular young lady among her race and well-known and perhaps admired by a number of American families.

She teaches voice culture and piano. She has pupils of several nationalities. Miss Castrounis has a likable personality, her friendliness and kindly interest is no doubt the means of her many friends among the various races.

Jennie Castrounis graduated from the Catholic Convent specializing in piano and voice culture. She recently won a 3-year scholarship offered by the Jacksonville College of Music.

Although born of parents native of Greece, her ability in speaking and writing her native tongue is limited.

There are, however, perhaps the best known and loved by her race, some songs she has accomplished. Two of these are "Old Demos" a favorite of the Greek race. This is a dying war hero's song. And Sta-Xena-Traho. This is a well loved song of their Homeland. Supposedly sung by a wanderer from his native country.

Old Demos. Song of a
dying soldier, by
Jennie Castrounis. Greek.
Oct. 4, 1939.

Record D-#1.

Go gather all my sons, I'm tired. I've had no sleep for 40 years.
I fight all the time. I've had no good cold water, never get good bread.

My heart it leaks blood constantly. Who knows what kind of a tree
will grow over my grave?

If it is a sycamore, I'll be under the shade.

Little Soldier, Young Soldiers, Little Robbers. I'll hang my gun
on the tree.

Run Son, run, throw my gun on my grave that soon will be made for me.

My heart is soon giving out, it leaks so much blood. And I think
the wound in my body is deep.

O, I wish I knew what kind of a tree will soon grow on my grave.

Run, good little soldiers and out some green bushes with blossoms
and fix my bed to sleep.

God knows what kind of a tree. If it be a sycamore I'll be under
the shade.

Hang my gun up on a limb and sing about my young brave days. I
have been a hero.

Go get some Springwater, so that you may wash your hands at my

Old Damos continued.

grave (which was a custom at the burial of a famous soldier).

I am wounded, run, run, run up the mountain and shoot my gun once more so I can hear the sound of my own rifle, just one more time.

As the soldier hears the sound of his own rifle he crosses his arms as to crossfire and dies.

This written just as the Song was translated by Jennie Castrounis and her father.

Sta-Xena-Traho
(I Wander in Far Away Lands)
October 4, 1939. Sung by
Jennie Castrounis. Greek.

Record C-#2.

No. 4.

Sta-Xena-Traho

I wander in a far away land. My heart, it is not here with me.

I think of your mountains. You are my dear Mother Country

Dear Hellar, My Mother.

I cannot do much but think of you. I know you must pray for me
to come home.

If I die here and cannot come home to you. My heart it will not
be here.

I work to come back to you and all the time I can think only
about you. Your sweet face, My Mother! My dear Hellar.

(Mother Country answers to the wanderer).

My Son, if you are living in the wilderness, I'm sorry. But
I'm alone without you. Wishing for you, longing for you to return
With my wishes you will always live with me.

But my son, if you forget me for a minute, If you think of another
Country as your own I will not bless you with my good wishes.

Think only of your dear Hellar

Your dear Mother Country

Your dear Sweet Hellar.

Wanderer:

Every country gives you honor which you rightly deserve.



My dear Country even if I die far away and along for months,
even if I am always a stranger I will still love you and think of you.

I am a deserter and I am heartsick. My heart and my mind will
always think only of you.

My dear Sweet Country

My dear Mother Country

My only Mother

My dear Sweet Hellar.

Florida - Greek
John Castrounis

Singer

Me-Xeharax, Haithe and Mousmoulia..

Mr. John Castrounis at 2685 Dellwood in his new brick home. He seems to feel honored to aid us with his songs, although he claims no ability for himself but says the songs he will sing are those he heard as a child, sung without music.

Mr. Castrounis is so eager to begin his singing he doesn't wait until the machine is set for the recording, but almost immediately bursts into song.

There is much joy evident in his eyes and action.

He was neatly dressed and displayed the hospitality so evident among his race.

As preparations were in progress Mr. Castrounis continued to sing, which seemed to worry Mrs. Castrounis and she said, "Wait, John, don't sing so much now, you will be tired and can't sing when they are ready."

Mrs. Castrounis was worrying around insisting upon serving some drinks and cakes.

John Castrounis runs a cafe in an industrial zone on Beaver Street. He is in partnership with George Poulas, another Greek. They alternate their working hours.

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Jennie tried to plan an accompaniment to the songs her father would sing. The songs he planned to sing he said, were never put to music. He recalls the tunes from childhood memory. Mr. Castrounis sings lustily and shows a fondness for the limelight of interest. He had no difficulty in singing his songs without music and his apparent joy and thrill of the whole matter brought understanding smiles from each of the family.

The singing of the old Greek Song seemed to bring real pleasure to both Mr. and Mrs. Castrounis but they found equivalent difficulty in giving complete translation in English.

The songs Mr. Castrounis sang were popular love ballads during his youth in Greece.

1. Me-Xeharax is a love song meaning: You forget me.
2. Haithi is a girl's name. Mr. Castrounis said, "Let's call it the same as Helen."

These songs appear to be repetitions of declarations of love.

3. Moumoulia: meaning the place I met you.

Record E-2

1. Me-Xehasax

1st Verse. You forget me and you must not like me anymore,
 You look at me and laugh, you don't talk to me anymore.
 I know you don't love me by the way you treat me.
 You act like I'm a stranger to you.
 It is hurting my heart.

Chorus: You forget me - Why do you forget me?

2nd Verse: You don't give me your sweet kisses and love me
 Like you used to do.
 You are spoiled child. You want me to plead with you.
 Come on to me and stop teasing me.
 I want to caress you. I want you.
 I want to caress you in my arms.

Chorus: You forget me - Why do you forget me?

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Record E-2

Haithe.

O, Haithe, come and sit on my knee,

I will love you, I want you in my arms.

O, Haithe, I am in pain of love for you.

I am in pain to love you.

You are the only one who can make me feel better.

Don't listen to other people.

Listen only to my heart.

I yearn for you all night and in the day

I can only think of you. I sigh for you.

I wish you would have pity on me and come to my arms.

I am full of love. If only you could see how sick

Of desire I am for you.

This sickness is like a burning flame. Come

Put out the fire. I'm so full of love for only you.

My Haithe.

Mousmoulia
(The First Place I Met You)
October 4, 1939. Sung by
John Castrounis. Greek.

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Continuation of Record E-2

Mousmoulia

I will plant a beautiful plum tree on the place where first I
met you.

As the shade grows darker my love will grow brighter for you.

I will lie down and sleep and smell the sweet blossoms reminding
me of your breath.

When I pick a plum to eat I shall think I'm kissing your sweet lips.

Every breeze that moves the leaves will bring me happy dreams.

Chorus

Before your old mean Grandmother teach you to say no, come to me
and say Yes. Come to me and say Yes. I wish she would teach you to
say Yes instead of No.

Open up your heart and let my heart tell you about my love.

It will tell you how much I love you. When hearts talk they do
not lie. So please listen to my heart for awhile and you will know
how deep my love is. Come to my arms and you will never leave my heart.

John C. Cooris, Greek.

Founder of the Sponge Fishing Industry at Tarpon Springs, Florida

March
about the
first

The Cooris family live at 952 LaSalle Street, South Jacksonville; in their three apartment house. Each apartment consists of six rooms and the apartments have separate entrances. The house is badly in need of paint and the grounds are at present poorly kept.

When I rang the door-bell, a cheery voice called out, "Just a minute, I have to go through the next apartment; something has happened to our look and it makes it very inconvenient to answer the door.

In a moment a tall, dark girl, dressed in pretty polka-dot pagamas and a loose, white slip-on sweater came out of the next door and climbed over the little bannister railing that separated the porches. She was smiling and courteous. She gave the door-knob a quick little twist and push which seemed to take an effort. "Come right in and take a seat, while I see if daddy has woke up.

The living-room where I waited was a bright and cheery place, but typical of all the Greek furnishings and decorations; there were numerous and unique bric-brac all about the room, there were also several large hand-painted vases filled with artificial flowers, these were placed attractively throughout the room. And as usual there several pieces of exquisite handwork, these were on the mantle and the chair-backs. One striking feature of the furnishings was the large oil painting of Mr. Cooris which hangs to the left of the entrance. The picture almost covers the entire side of the wall from the corner to the window. The picture is about four and one half feet wide and five feet in length. There was a soft rug on the floor and the furniture was the usual overstuffed three pieces, in green mohair. The bright glowing coal fire added to the comfort of the room. As I waited I could discern the usual rich aroma of meat cooking and highly flavored. I also saw that the dining-room was only recently used as the table had not been cleared from the noon-day lunch.

The meal had been served on a lovely, linen and lace cloth. And the places had been set for five. The china-closet was filled with many beautiful dishes and glassware. There was also a fire in the large circulating heater in this room.

At last when Mr. Cooris came in, he said, "Well, I think I am getting lazy with all this good nursing my wife and my little Mary here, give me.

Mr. Cooris is a little man, probably no more than five feet tall. His eyes are most impressive and there is a twinkle in them, almost want to make you laugh. He began rubbing the wrinkles from his pagamas shirt, and saying, "I have to take a nap every day since I came back from the hospital, I had to go there for a treatment for my kidneys, they tell me I am a sick man, but they don't know that I a long way from dying yet,

Mr. Cooris added, "You come on in here and sit to the table where you can write a little better than in the chair. Mary, make the lady a cup of coffee, and to me, How about something to eat?

When the coffee was served he explained that perhaps I would like to have mine diluted, as it was made from finely ground Greek Coffee and unaccustomed to its taste has difficulty in really getting the enjoyment that he should. Mr. Cooris said, "I like mine straight and strong. Even this I should not drink, but I can't give up everything that I am use to just to please the doctors, he doesn't want me to drink any more or smoke anymore so what is an old man going to do?

"Now then you want me to tell you about the sponge fishing days? That is a pretty little story to tell, but it has a sad ending to it, cause I am broke now.

Now Mr. Cocoris I want you to tell me just why you came to America and something about your life in Greece before you came to this country.

" Well, that is a long time ago and I might have forgot more than I can remember, but I can remember one thing very well and that is just this one thing--I always wanted to come to this country ever since I was just a little boy and I always planned on it ever since I could talk.

" You see my mother's brother was in the sponge fishing business in the old country and I can never forget one thing too, that is that nearly all the time some of the families were in black, mourning for the death of some of their families. You see there were so many dangers in the sponge business there and nothing could be done about it. We had in the business about, oh I guess anywhere from 165 to 203 deaths in one year. And you can see that is terrible. I had one big wish, it was more than a wish it was a dream that I had day and night, it never left me, it just haunted me. I must go to America to see if I could learn some way to save these peoples lives. There were too many of them dying.

" I was a smart little boy and my father's friends would tell my mother and father that I would make a good thing of my life sometime, for I was too smart not to amount to something, I wanted to show them that I could do something. I was the oldest of the children of which there were two brothers and three sisters. The boys always feel a responsibility for the sisters in the family and they want to do something to help.

" My father was a cook and then one day he decided to go into the beer and wine business which he did well with. But he did not make so much money that he could save all the time. So I was really surprised to find that on my birthday he had saved enough money for me to come to America. I was 17 and full of hope to come here and send back the money. I had already picked out my girl for my wife and I told her that I would come back and get her someday, and when a Greek man tells a girl that he is going to marry her he always keeps his promise, so she had faith to wait for me. I told them all good bye and they all glad to see me go. They did not feel sorry to see me go for they knew that I would make good and that they would be proud of me.

The daughter Mary sat with us, listening intently at the story. She said, " I have never heard daddy tell this to anyone else before and it is interesting to me.

" So on my birthday, April 17th of 1895 I sailed on the French Line for this country. I was only a kid then, but I was not afraid, I knew that others had come to his country and made a good success and I could do it also. The trip was interesting and I had the chance to see some interesting cities on my way over here. In those days the transportation was slower and it was necessary to stop over for a period of several days in different ports in line of the voyage. So I visited Paris, Harve and Landon; I stayed there in each city for about six or seven days. I was glad to get to this country though and I found some of my father's friends who were good to me and took me around and show me the city. I soon got me a job with a sponge company in New York, I just show them my passport and they put me right to work. In a little while I was making the biggest salary that I could ever think of getting. They paid me the big salary of ten dollars soon after I got to work and then in a little while they were paying me even more, I could save and have enough to eat and clothes to wear out of that and feel like a million dollars. I later started diving and helping men the fishing boats. They raised me to a better salary. but on a whole I didn't make over 30.00 a week. I managed to save out that 5000.00 in eight years. My hope was to save enough to get my sisters married and to then get my wife from the old country, I was

lonesome for some body to be with me and help me. In the early part of 1903 I went to Greece to visit my family and to get married. I could not stay there long for the company I worked for paid my passport to Greece, for I had not had a vacation since I had started to work for them; they valued my work that much.

" I was married in the old church where we had always gone in our childhood and then we went to visit her people and my mother's uncle who was the sponge man and told him all the news of the New York sponge fishing, we visited at Hydrea for a little while. I did not stay in Greece anymore than eight weeks from the time I got there. I wanted to get back and go to work now for more money. I had got a new dream and that was to own a sponge business for myself but I didn't tell anybody about it I just plan it to myself. Any way when I come back I have to go back to work for the same company and they seem to get my idea and they send me to Key West as a foreman of the sponge fisheries there. I worked there for about two years and I had seen fishermen come in and buy sponge hooks from Tarpon Springs, one day I said to one of them, 'do you think there are and good sponges in the deep waters of Tarpon Springs, they say, ' yes. ~~###~~ so I make my plans to come. I buy a second-hand boat and a diver's suit.

" The first haul was excellent and I had better hopes than before I started. Soon I bought another and then every six months I bought a new boat and got some good divers from Greece. The Key West fisheries were jealous of me and did all they could to keep me from prospering. They would steal my materials and cause me all the troubles that they could. I made good and paid my divers better than any other operators did and therefore I could have the best ones. One week we made such good hauls that I made over all expenses 2800.00 and such good business was too much for them to stand so they began to threaten me with physical violence. I was then the ~~#####~~ sheriff in Tarpon Springs and had to go prepared to take care of myself. They were jealous and one day when I went into Key West for some supplies I had been gone from my new boat but only a little while when some body came and burn up my boat as well as all my things including my clothes. I had some new diving equipment in it and I lost everything. I knew that they were behind it, but I had no way to prove it so they got away with it.

" And that is where the story about the cannon on my yacht came from. I had bought the yacht to cruise around and have a good time, just for pleasure. And I had a little too much to drink one day and I thought it might be a good idea to show them that I could fix them up if they didn't leave me alone. Of-course I didn't really mean to do anything with it, but it added a little fun to my life on the water. When I would drink a little too much I would like to shoot it just once. ~~#####~~ It make plenty of noise and added prestige to my yacht.

The story of the cannon made Mary laugh, she said, " A day you must have been a funny fellow in your younger days. I would like to have known you then. You don't need to wonder how we get like we do sometimes, since you were such a bad boy. This seemed to please John Cocoris, he smiled that mischievous way that seemed to say, " Those were the good old days.

The door-bell rang again and Mary said something under her breath about having to go outside to open the door. John Cocoris said, " Oh that is the preacher; he is coming to bring some papers for me to sign. Then to me he said

" I am the new president of the church.

The Greek priest entered the room and drew a chair to the table, his wife ~~###~~ accompanied him and was the last to be seated, there was hardly no greeting at all and they entered immediately ~~###~~ in the business for which he had called. The loud talking brought Mrs. Cocoris to the room, she had been lying down and on hearing the priest she came in saying, " John, he talk so loud he wake me up, I wash the clothes today and I need rest. There were sympathetic expressions from the priest and his wife. ~~###~~

Mrs. Cocoris appeared somewhat upset about being awakened from her afternoon nap, she greeted the preacher and his wife pleasantly however and began to make preparations to serve some refreshments, she took from the large, hand-painted cookie jar several dainty confections and brought glasses of water, saying, "The coffee will be ready in a minute. They all acted as though this was expected of her. Mrs. Cocoris moved about laboriously, and slowly as though she found it a great effort.

Mrs. Skipitaris finally inquired regarding her health and she said, I am well but, I am tired, I washed the clothes and then there is so much to do with John home, He will not mind, he isn't supposed to smoke and we try to keep the cigarettes from him but he just fusses about it when we don't give them to him. He is as much trouble as a little baby. This made the preacher laugh and John himself seemed to get a big kick out of the fact that he was getting the attention of the family.

Reverend Skipitaris addressing me said, "Young lady can I do any thing for you this time, I explained to him that I having the story of Mr. Cocoris coming to America and the sponge business told to me.

Mr. Shipitaris said, "The coming to America in those days was guidance from God. It was foretold in the Old Testament that all the peoples would gather in the Lord's country and so it was a natural thing for the people to want to come to this country in those days. But now the people would tell you a different kind of story about why they want to come to the New World, today they want to come to this country because they like this government better than they like any other. They feel that they can have more safety here than anywhere in the world. I came here because of Divine guidance and so did John and all the people that came here in those days. He might tell you that he came ~~with~~ with a certain point in his mind about doing something. But if he had not had that desire he would have the desire to come here anyhow. The times were good in those days and there was plenty for everybody to eat and there was plenty work. But it is not that way now, the times are hard now and there is need almost in every family. The economic conditions are worse than they have ever been and there is no remedy so it seems.

Mr. Cocoris appeared nervous while the priest talked. He continuously twisted an empty cigarette package, which seemed to annoy his daughter. She finally took the scraps of paper he had torn and the package from him saying, "Daddy you must not be so nervous. To which he replied, "I want another cigarette then, you will have to give it to me. I got to have it. Or I will go get it. There was much concern given him by every one. The priest said, "Now John you ought to try to get along without so many, since you know that you must not smoke. Anna and Mary are trying to take care of you.

John Cocoris by this time was up walking up and down the floor briskly, in a short nervous stride. Mary looked at me and shook her head, saying I will get you another one, and then you cannot have anymore until after you go back to sleep. Mrs. Cocoris said, "He will make me sick to if he doesn't try to be better and not do the things he is not supposed to do. He has been home about a month and I had rather have six children to take care than him one day.

Mr. Cocoris now calmed and relaxed said, "I got high blood pressure and bad kidneys from too much drink and smoke. I guess I worry my family to death. but I don't mean to. Is there more about the story you want me to tell you. I didn't tell you how I lost all the money that I make? ~~that~~ All the money that I keep is the money that I give to Anna, she could keep it, but I could not. I would give her 500.00 at a time to run the house on and she would put it in the bank, she saved all she could and it is a shame that I didn't give her more because, then I would have something to give my poor children now when they are older and able to appreciate it, but I cannot give them anything now. But maybe I can make another fortune for them. I am not licked yet. I always say a man that can make money one time can make it again. And the man that can't make any when he has a chance will never have

any. I try to teach my children to save, but there is not much signs of it in the family. I have a boy that works for the Stathis ^Resturant and he doesn't save much, maybe a little I think that he would like to get married but he is too proud to get married to the girl without being able to give her better than he can. I have one daughter that is married; she married some four years ago. Her husband is in the restaurant business in West Palm Beach. They have two children. Yeh, I'm a grandfather now and yet I am not too old to make more good money.

"I want to do something for my children; I had plenty and knew the pleasure of money and they did not. I had two little children when I was a rich man but they were too small to remember that. All that they can remember is that their daddy was a poor man, that worries me to death when I think of it. I have good children and they are good to their papa and mama. One daughter is not so well, she has been sick for a few months, first one thing and then another until she have to quit her work. She is now visiting her married sister.

"I also have another little daughter that works, her name is ^Thelma, they all change their names when they go to the American schools; one is named ^Mary that is the only one that did not change her name. The other ~~one~~ ^{one} is named Margaret. The boys didn't change their name, James is the one that works for the restaurant and the other one is named Iky. They like the American names better than the old Greek names. They all speak the English better than their mama and papa. They don't talk like our people any more, I am glad too that they can speak good English. They don't understand too well the Greek names; and none of the Greek History.

This statement brought forth a reply from Mary, saying, "Daddy you forget that Iky loves the old Greek History; and ^Dorothy always made good grades too in her Greek, better than I did. I love the language but it is only used by our people and in the business world there is not so much need for it, it is nice, very nice to be able to converse with our friends in our native tongue.

I asked Mary, "So you plan to have your children learn the language if and when you marry?" "Oh, of-course, she replied, without hesitation. They would be most unpopular if they didn't. But when will that ever be? I cannot even have a boy friend for a long time yet. You remember that I have two sisters older than I that must get married before me. We Greek girls have a difficult time in finding any eligible men of our own race here and some of the boys of our race are going with American girls. This makes it harder than ever for us to find husbands.

John Coooris was in the kitchen getting him another cup of coffee and Mrs. Coooris was making a little fuss about it. Mary appeared ready to volunteer any information about the race of young people of her crowd.

She continued, "We girls have to find our pleasure in our club. We can not enjoy the Christmas festivities as the American girls seem to, nor the Easter in fact none of the big days like the Fourth of July. Our fun must always be in a religious line. We are used to it however, but sometimes we get to thinking we must miss a lot of pleasures that the American girls have and then we comfort our selves with the thought that perhaps we also miss a lot of the troubles too; our families take care of us so that we do not have the trials that some of the other races have. No we not read much of the popular, cheap ~~magazines~~ magazines they would not be a good influence on our morals, or so the church thinks and that is what our lives is governed by.

"Our fun has to be therefore somewhat different for that reason. We cannot do many of the things that the American Girls can do. Of-course we can go to the movies, and read clean novels. Our parents do not tell us about sex either. They just expect us to find it out for ourselves and we do discuss these matters in our club. We usually appoint some one to find these information and then we discuss it most discreetly.

Mary you are only twenty-two and have all these thoughts, I wonder do you plan to give your children any more freedom than you have had?

do which she answered thoughtfully, " Well that is a hard question to answer you not not understand the gravity and depth of the question I am afraid. The restrictions placed upon us are so old that our race does not know much else. It has only been for the last 10 years that there has been any departure whatever from those customs and even then there has been much criticism. You probably understand what I mean by that, surely there are girls in your own race that have broken conventionalities and received the usual ostracism from their old crowd. Perhaps as the time goes on we shall become more and more Americanized. But the older people that came from the old country are stricter than we might with our children. Sometimes we think that it must be wonderful to have the freedom of the American girls. ~~But~~ But we are happy most of the time without our own families, there is always so much to do. From what I can see, you people do not keep that family tie and feeling of responsibility for each other that we do. We do not only feel that for our own family but for cousins and even distant relatives. We young people though are becoming inclined to want to drift away from that, but we can never do it as long as our parents live. →

Mr. Cocoris returned and asked, "What have you been talking about?" Mary tactfully drew her father into the conversation by saying, "Daddy didn't you give away a lot of the money that you made during the time that you were in the money?" Mr. Cocoris said, "Oh, yes, that is always to be expected, when you have a lot of money there is always a lot of people that need the help and that makes the fun in having the money. I use to give the divers very good money for all the work and then they would team up on me and work on my sympathy, so that I would give them the money in advance. I use to do this and then sometimes I would be the loser for they might not have good results in the haul and then they would be in more money than I would be. But I didn't mind then as long as I had money I didn't mind giving it away. I gave my divers that got sick from the work and could not work any more as much money as I would give them if they were still working for me. Two of the men that got the bends I sent back to Greece and gave them plenty of money to live on as long as I made it."

Mrs. Cocoris came in the room and entered the conversation by saying, "John gave all his money away and that is why he feels so bad today at not having any. I like to get money for people but they took advantage of John; he was too liberal, Mary had to translate for her mother. Her English was very poor and ~~almost impossible~~ almost impossible to understand. Mary said you should be able to talk with mother she could tell you things that daddy won't tell; she ~~remembers~~ remembers all the unpleasant things as well as the nice one. But daddy just likes to talk about the things that he enjoyed. Mrs. Cocoris shook her head sadly as if to say there were many regrets."

Mr. Cocoris said "But I didn't give Anna all my money then we would still have money. But all that we have now is the house and we don't get money out of it. It is rented to our relatives and you cannot charge them like they were no kin to you, can you?"

Mrs. Stedman you come back to see me sometime when I feel a little better and I will tell everything. Sometime I am going to give you something nice, you wait and see."

books - [signature]
August 18, 1939.
William Felos, (Greek)
130 West Forsyth-st.,
Hat Cleaner and Hat
Blocker,
Gus & Co.,
Jacksonville, Florida.

Rose Shepherd, Writer.

WILLIAM FELOS, HAT CLEANER AND BLOCKER.

Gus & Company's business occupies the double arcade at 130 West Forsyth-st., adjoining the Seminole Hotel. Gus' other name is Felos, pronounced "Fellus," but the Americans called him "Fellers", "Failus", "Felix" and "Fillus" - but everybody could remember "Gus" so that is the name on the big sign over the front door, brilliant with colored electric light globes at night.

First there was "Old Gus" and "Young Gus," and now there is "Little Gus".

The Seminole Hotel is one of the older hostelries of Jacksonville, with a steady traveling clientele. It is also popular as a dining and gathering place for the older residents with retentive memories of its past glory, and is particularly liked by smaller organizations of women for dinners, banquets, and meetings, on account of its well appointed public reception rooms and its dining service. You can eat all over the place.

Its adjoining building is a good location for Gus & Co., too, and there is a steady stream of transient customers coming in for their shoes to be shined or repaired, or old hats battered by traveling, to be reblocked and cleaned. "Old Gus" established the business in 1909.

Gus, the son, -- short, black-eyed, with a fringe of sleek black hair over his ears and around his bald pate --

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walks nervously up and down, snapping his fingers to galvanize into action the small negro boys when a customer walks down the polished aisle and mounts one of the high shoe-shine chairs with their metal foot rests; darts to the cash register to make change for a departing customer; turns the radio on to get a favorite program, and turns it off when the program ~~is finished~~ -- *like as though* he ^{were} ~~was~~ saving gas -- the minute it is over; watches the two front doors, as he is the official "greeter" and contacts each customer as he arrives and departs.

A complete shoe repair department occupies the entire east arcade, with noisy electrically-operated up-to-date machinery for all phases of the work, a row of chairs lining the wall for the persons who sit in stockinged-feet while waiting for minor repairs to their shoes.

The west arcade is taken up with the shoe-shine stand accommodating twenty persons at a time, a very exciting place with the negro shine boys jiggling in time to the electric victrola, usually blaring away at full speed to drown out the noise of the heavy shoe repair machinery.

At the end of the arcade is the hat department -- "Cleaning and re-blocking at reasonable prices." In the glass case in front of the end wall, from floor to ceiling are the hats -- big, little, dark, light, felt, straw, leghorn-- an array of fifty or more, some ready for delivery, others waiting for customers who forget to come back.

Young Gus dives through the west arcade, quickly naming a price for new soles and straightening the run-over heels on a pair of brown and white oxfords, which a woman alighting from an automobile she has just parked at the curb, holds out gingerly, inquiring, "How much?"

Today he is followed by two youngsters -- one about ten and the other twelve -- darting here and there like a couple of flat-footed ducks. The third generation of hat-blockers, shoe-repairers, shoe-shiners of the Felos dynasty adapting themselves to American methods.

"William Felos gone to lunch. Back in twenty minutes." said Gus, the second. "You see him. He's secretary the church, good scholar. Wish I could help you, but don't know anything. He's smart. He can talk."

"How is your father?"

"He sick, very sick man. Comes down to business no more. These two my boys. Big one Gus, the other George."

Gus, the III, and young George looked almost like twins, and were dressed alike in tan shirts, khaki trousers, and sneakers on their feet. Their light brown tousled heads bobbed a "Howdo", and their bright brown eyes sparkled above their sensitive mouths and pointed chins. An older son, who had been operating the electric shoe-soler, now joined the interested company, wiping his hand on the leather apron as he glanced critically at the upturned shoe in his left hand.

The "ducklings" almost as tall as Gus II listened eagerly to a careful explanation of the information desired, the shoe repairer started the soler, and Gus II half yelled to

make himself heard above the din - the machinery, the electric victrola grinding out a "hot-cha" to which the negro shoe-shine boys were keeping time with their polishing rags, emphasizing the loud swells with a double snappity-snappity-snap-snap, the two big electric fans whirring steadily and noisily at the ceiling as their ^{long} ~~big~~ revolving blades fanned the air heavy with the odor of benzine, leather, ~~banana~~ oil and polish -- "You come back at 2:30. I tell him you come."

At 2:30 William Felos had returned from lunch, *standing back of the long glass show-case at the end of the shoe-shining department* and with long sensitive fingers was carefully pressing into shape a bias sweatband to be sewed into ^{the} ~~the~~ freshly cleaned Panama hat upon the long glass show-case back of which he stood at the end of the shoe-shining department.

He is a tall man, with a strikingly handsome face, fine-grained fair skin, wavy iron-gray hair worn in a pompadour, and light brown eyes. He was dressed in gray trousers and blue and white striped shirt, with dark blue silk tie.

"I am sorry -- busy now. Maybe you could come back at four? I be through then." He speaks slowly, measuring his words, with a slight drawl through teeth close together, and a slow friendly smile.

At four o'clock William Felos had finished his work for the day. With the early edition of the Jacksonville Journal spread out before him on the glass-topped case, now cleaned of its smear of white polish, the benzine soaked rags, and the chamois skin finisher, he was glancing over the sport headlines.

"I been here, right here in Jacksonville, twenty-five years. My home in L-e-o-n-t-a-v-i-o-n"-- Mr. Felos carefully spelled out the name, at the same time printing it on a scratch pad in carefully formed square letters.

"It is a small country village in the province of Arcadia, near the seaport of Sparta, in P-o-l-o-p-o-n-i-s-u-s "-- he again resorted to the scratch pad.

"My father was a farmer. I started to school when I was six and graduated when I was fifteen, that is, from high school. I had to walk a long ways -- took an hour to go and come. But I was glad, because I liked to go to school.

"I learned reading and writing, and to figure in the grammar schools. All children go -- boys and girls, together -- but in high school the boys and girls go separate, have different rooms and different teachers -- all men teachers, though, and very straight (strict).

"In high school I study geometry, algebra, calculation, Homer, Cicero, the Greek classics. For languages we took up Latin, Spanish, French, German, Greek, and anchen (ancient) Greek"-- again the scratch pad. It was difficult to understand his low voice amid the din of the busy place, but he was very patient, and anxious that everything should be put down correctly.

"The anchen Greek - you know - like the time of Christ. It is differant, just like pure English, and English mixed with American slang -- but like Homer wrote the Odyssus" - (he called it "Oddyishus.")

"I love Homer. But best of all I liked astronomy." He pronounced it as if it were spelled "ahstrone-o-me.

"You know, in Greece are such lovely blue skies at night, and the stars so close you can almost reach out and touch them. It is like that here, sometimes -- when there is no fog. But I can't go on here. I find nobody interested to teach me about the stars. I have my books, yes, but one gets tired trying to figure things out by himself.

"Do you have a telescope?"

"No telescope, but a very goodfield glass. It is perfect. I make my charts and watch the changes in the evening and morning stars, the rising and waning constellations -- but it is all so wonderful, a never-ending study.

"I finished school in 1914. My father was very sickly, and not long to live, and when my cousin - Gus in the door, there - came to Rome in the ^{winter} ~~summer~~ of 1914, my father said - 'You go back to American with Gus. You have better chance there. Germany, Italy, the big powerful nations of Europe will soon swallow up the smaller countries -- and Greece, the great Greece of olden times, of Pericles, Cicero, Homer, Pythagoras -- will be no more -- just target for bullets, or fodder for the big war machine.'

"Young Gus came on to the old village and visited a while with us, and on January 25, 1914, we sailed from the port of Patras, on the English S. S. Franconia.

"You see, Greece had been embroiled in the war in the Balkans in 1912 -- seemed like there was always trouble in

the Balkans -- and a great many young Greeks in the United States came over to help out the mother country.

"No, they were not obliged to -- they just volunteered, but the trouble was soon over, and they all returned. Then when it seemed there would be a general war in Europe, nobody knew what would happen to Greece, so my father thought it better for me to come with young Gus.

"Old Gus, that is, my uncle is my father's brother, and his health not so good, either, so he thought a young man like me would be a help in the business, and here I am.

"We were about ten days crossing the Atlantic. We landed in New York City, and came right to Jacksonville. That was in February, 1914.

"I had a time learning the language -- I still get stuck once in a while --" he laughed. "I can still speak French pretty good, but have forgotten the Latin and German. I read the Greek, of course, but I have not kept up with the magazines or papers of the old country. I did have a lot of books I brought over and pictures -- I wish I had them now, you would enjoy looking at them, but they are all gone -- lost in a fire that burned my home four years ago.

"I have bought other books, but they are American book, and as many as I could afford on astronomy.

"Where I came from the people lead a very simple life. The farmers -- my father was a farmer, he died long ago -- raised most of their foodstuff. Wonderful beans, okra, carrots, cabbages, potatoes -- all grew nice in the fertile valley of the Daphne River.

"There was always plenty to eat. Black bread -- no low-veetaleety white bread like the Americans use so much." By this time it was apparent that William Felos' intonations were of the throaty, close-lipped Greek, but his accent was decidedly French.

"Such melons they had! Like this - (he measured off two feet with his hands and fingers far apart) - but big and round like your watermelon. They taste like the honey dew, but are larger -- twenty-five to forty-five pounds. They ship them to nearby countries, where they are greatly relished.

"We did not have much meat, but it was freshly killed, twice a week. No pork. But plenty fish and seafood. Lots of fruit. The climate in the valley is warm, like here, but not so much rain. There were oranges, lemons, limes, and on the hillsides, large vineyards of grapes.

"Everybody drank wine, mostly sour wine -- you would probably say veenegar -- but it was more healthy than water. There were no sewer systems, no sanitary -- not much sanitation. It was not possible, on account of the floods when the mountain snows melted in the spring and the Daphne rushed all over the valley. It would have torn out sewers.

"The country people had wells and mountain springs, the water cold and good, but they did not drink it. No water in Greece for drinking, only wine. The water used for bathing and washing.

"The Grecian women did their own work -- we have no blacks there -- and cooked good meals for their families,

seasoned with the green peppers, garlic, leeks, and nice big sweet onions. They did the family washing, too. Sometimes beating the clothes on the flat rocks at the mountain streams -- they were all about. There are no laundries there, and stiff, starched collars.

"The farmers raised sheep, cut the wool, which the women washed snow white and carded and spun into yarn, weaving it into clothing for the men and boys, with gay cottons -- like you say, prints -- for the women and girls. "

He stopped talking, reaching behind into the tall glass-fronted case with its many shelves, and removed a Panama hat -- the same one he had been preparing the band for earlier in the afternoon. A woman, with a ten-year old girl had entered the arcade and was approaching the hat counter.

"My! It looks like new," she commented.

William Felos said not a word, but as she handed him a five dollar bill, he touched a bell on the counter, at which Gus III slid up, grabbed the bill, with the stub the woman had produced, and whirled himself to the cash register where Gus II was already stationed, in anticipation, handed out the correct change, which Gus III covered with his two small hands, and slid back to the hat counter. The woman stuffed the money into a small change purse.

Oblivious to her surroundings, she placed six small purchases from the ten-cent store on the counter.

"Give me an extra bag," she requested. Silently

the slim, strong hands folded another green 'Gus & Co. Hat Cleaners and Blockers' bag in the middle and slipped it into the other bag with the hat.

"Let me see if I got all my change." She emptied her purse on the counter, and mentally counted up the change she should have as she removed the sales-slips from the numerous bundles. "Virginia, you got the bundle with the baby's rubber pants?"

"Y-e-s, m-a-a-a-m," drawled Virginia, her left elbow on the counter, as she rested her small back tired from much trotting around with adult shopping, her left foot tapping out the rhythm of the electric victrola, as she watched the shoe-shine boys jiggling back and forth.

"And the safety-pins?"

"Uh-huh."

"Well, I guess everything's here. Ho^o much was the hat?"

Silently William Felos produced the duplicate of the numbered claim check plainly marked in large figures -- \$1.25.

Out came the bills again and all the small change on the counter. She went carefully over it all, counting out loud. "Okeh. Come on, Virginia."

William Felos slowly closed the case.

"Did you think she had a right to the extra bag?"

"Oh, it's all right. She wanted that to put the baby pants, the safety-pins, the buttons and snappers, the can opener, and the new stopper for the bath-tub that she had bought at Kresses. But Virginia will carry one bag,

probably the one with the hat, as it is lighter than the other one, and the mother will carry the one stuffed with the smaller bundles. Gus & Co. in big letters - six inches - to the other riders in the bus on the outside will advertise our business/ and when she gets home the neighbors will say - 'Just saw Mrs. So-and-so come in with two hats from Gus's. I did not know her old man had two summer hats.' "

He smiled his slow smile, and his grave eyes twinkled at the thought of the double advertising.

"You want to know about the Spartan law? Well, it is as old -- as you say, the hills -- I do not know when it started. But the Greeks, you know, in the olden times spent much time in developing a fine, graceful body. It was part of their daily life for centuries -- a poor body was a disgrace. When a baby was born deformed or crippled, the parents were informed; it became the ward, so to say, of the community, the doctor had charge of it for a year in the cleeenic. The parents could come and see it, and the doctor tried everything he knew to correct the condition, but at the end of a year, if it was no better, and the doctor felt he had done all he possibly could, the baby was destroyed -- thrown in the river.

"A bad law? Perhaps. But we have always had bad laws. There was the Hindu law where the girl babies were drowned in the Ganges -- they did not want girl babies, only boy babies for the wars. Then there was Herod's law at the time of Christ when the boy babies were ordered killed. We have not changed much when it comes to cruelty. Now we

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build planes that drop bombs, and guns that shoot two hundred miles -- not to kill pests or carry on commerce, but to kill people, innocent people, and nice young men in the world's armies, who never harmed a thing larger than a flea -- all for what? To keep up the nation's honor!

"Well, the most disease we have in Greece is the terrible malaria. I used to have it each summer. Every other day, chills and fever, all day long, until I got so weak I could hardly stand."

"Weren't you afraid of being thrown in the river?"

"No," he laughed. "But after I finish school, father think I better come to America -- with young Gus."

"I'll never forget the trip. The blue Mediterranean, touching at the age-old seaports -- Palermo, Corfu, Marseilles, Barcelona, in Spain - Valencia, Carthagenus, Malaga -- now stripped of their historic buildings, their people killed by shells and bombs in the civil war -- all for what? Political presteeje! I am glad I saw them in their old settings of Spanish custom and beauty. It took a long time, it seemed, before we got to the Atlantic.

"Some of our people suffer in the homeland from tuberculosis, the same as everywhere -- jut like here -- but it is not prevalent. They go up in the mountains and sometimes live a long time on cheese and goat's milk, sour wine and hard black bread.

"For the malaria the doctor gives us a bitter medicine.

I do not know if it is quineene -- but it is bitter, yes, and helps with the fever."

He had stopped talking as his eyes fixed themselves upon a bare-headed man slowly approaching the hat counter, his near-sighted eyes peering forth from behind old fashioned gold-rimmed glasses, his gray hair parted primly all the way back in the exact center.

Calmly William Felos reached back into the case and brought forth a yellowed Panama.

"Looks like new. How much?" queried the customer, as he rammed the hat on his head.

Silently the ticket was presented - 75¢. The man produced a dollar bill, William Felos' hand sought the counter-bell, and this time George - the younger - skated up, sliding the last two feet, grabbed the dollar bill, and in double-quick slid back with a quarter.

Everything about Gus & Company's moves to the tempo of the fast-playing electric victrola -- that is, everything but Demetrios, the shoe-repairer with his roving, ox-like eyes, his mouth full of tacks, his hands mechanically driving a half sole on the brown and white oxfords; and William Felos, the scholar, with the far-away look in his grave eyes and his mind on the stars.

"I have not told you about the wine? Lots of it they make, all kinds, the same as here -- port, claret, sherry, muscatel. In the sour wine they put rosin, in fact, in most of the wine they do this. It makes it smooth and oily, and gives it a tang that is good.

to be
with
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"The year I came away, one of the cafes in Sparta ordered five hundred gallons wine from our neighborhood -- different kinds -- which was delivered to him and placed in the long cellar dug in the rocks and cool, deep under his place of business. "

Another bare-headed old gentleman came in, and silently William reached behind in his customary gesture and this time brought forth a clean, stiffened brown leghorn.

"Just like new. Here's a dollar."

GusIII slithered up in his soft sneakers, confiscated the bill and handed it to his father, who rang it up on the cash register with a loud clatter.

"The man had noncoupon. Do you ever get them mixed, and give out the wrong derby?"

William Felos laughed. "Not this man, he's old friend. And the hat, too. I clean it so often, pretty soon I should own it. I would know that hat if I meet it in the middle of Forsyth and Broad Streets."

"When I was a boy," he picked up the thread of his story, "the farming in our section was carried on with oxen, and mostly wooden plows with steel or metal shares. Horses could not twist around the rocks. Never could they use tractors. Now they have steel plows. But most of the fields are small, on the edge of town, not whole sections of land like here - five or six hundred acres. Just little fields, of a block or more, and lots of it cultivated like gardens by hand, with hoes and rakes.

In answer to a direct question ,he said:

"There are very few Greeks in Asia Minor now. Before 1922 it was seventy-five per cent Greeks, but after the uprising in 1922, they mostly leave, scatter out different place. Just few there now in business.

"I forgot to tell you about the University. In Athens there is the great government-owned Atlas University, where they teach all the sciences, law and medicine. It is known the world over, and has existed for centuries. It is great to be graduate from there."

"But you like it here -- you are satisfied?"

"Oh, yes, yes! America is the greatest country and the richest country in the world today. The old capital-eestic (he deliberated on the pronunciation) seestym is passing. They once owned the laboring man and the mechanics, but no more. The working man - the forgot man - is now coming into his own. Every man should be honored for what he can do -- if a hat man like myself, if he is expert' - he should be honored the same as a doctor or lawyer. The same with a restaurant man, a shoemaker like Demetrios, or a ditch-digger.

"I think President Roosevelt is the greatest man of my years -- of my lifetime -- well, what I mean to say is of this day and age. He tries to help everybody. His ideas good, but sometimes the politeeshians prevent them to be carried out. There is always in America that awful graft! I like to see honest men in office, men not afraid to hold up their heads, and not always with their hands behind them looking for contributions.

"And the gambling! That is America's curse. I talk to these my young cousins, and I say - 'Gus and George, dont start to gamble. It will ruin you.'

"You see in my country there is the National Lottery. If you wish to gamble, that is your own business, but it must be according to law, and everybody gets a little -- mebbe, only a nickel's worth, but something.

"The money over there? It is a unit called the drachma -- like the French franc. No, it does not go like the deceemawl (decimal) but like this" - he wrote on the scratch pad - one, two, five, ten, twenty-five, fifty, one hundred, two hundred, and so on, ~~up to~~ five thousand, ten thousand - any amount. The value is around five cents in our money.

"No, I have no family. I was married in 1930, but separate in 1933. My wife was an American girl, but -" he threw his hands palm upward in a French gesture of dispair - "it was no good. American girls not like the Grecian, all for the home. They want to go places, do things, have company; men, too, and no questions asked. The weemen -- it does no use to argue with them, and say what you expect -- they have all the answers, at least all the good ones, and a man gets no chance. It is money, money all the time."

"Do you always knock off at four?"

"Knock off? Yes, mostly I be through by that time. I work here possibly five hours a day -- you see, I am secretary of the church -- the Orthodox Greek Community here-- and in the morning I do that work, write letters,

keep tab on the three hundred and fifty Greeks in this locality, and help the priest, Rev. Elias Skipitares, with his work.

"Mr. Georges K. Sthathis is the President of the board, and we have five other officers besides ourselves.

"You may say that ninety out of every one hundred Greeks in America are naturalized American citizens. They are peaceful, law-abiding people, mostly in business for themselves -- small businesses like fruit and candy stores, groceries, restaurants, and shops like this. They are quick to adapt themselves to your ways here, and are most anxious to bring up the coming generation as full-fledged Americans.

"I am a Democrat, and vote at the regular elections like other Floridians. We pay our share of taxes, and our minds are easy. We are not afraid of being called scamps or tricksters."

Mr. William Felos was folding up his evening paper, preparatory to departure, as if this was all he had to tell. It was five o'clock. In the hour, Gus III and Young George had made six trips for him to the cash register, totaling a contribution from his department of the sum of \$7.50 -- not bad for one hour!

"Have you ever been to Miami?"

"No, I have not travel much in Florida."

"The University of Miami teaches astronomy and they have a small observatory there."

"Yes?" His face lighted up enthusiastically. "Mebbe, some day I take time off and go there. It would be great to view the Southern Cross through a good telescope."

And so -- if the idea takes root -- William Felos, Greek-American citizen of Jacksonville, Florida, may some day add to his knowledge of a-h-s-t-r-o-n-o-m-e-e.

March - 29 - 1940

Mr. Kivelos said, "Tuesday was the day the Grecian Empire was surrendered to the Turks and therefore every Greek regards that as a most unlucky day. He will not transact any business on that day. You never hear of a marriage being performed on that day, did you? And if the first day of the week is a holiday then when there should be much business coming on that day, it just waits for the Greeks. We always wait until the night to begin our business, if that is the case,

"A personal little superstition of my own is this- just as sure as I start to go fishing and old whiskers comes along I just might as well expect trouble; either I will have a flat tire or some body will run into me or when I get there I find that John was sick and didn't go fishing last night and there isn't any bait or when I get out on the water the weather will change and blow up a storm or any way hell will just pop lose. This has been a family superstition for many generations. I remember one time when I was a little boy; my brother had gone fishing and he didn't come home all night my father and mother were worried to death to fear for him, they knew that the priest had come by just as Nick had started out to go fish. Well next day when he did come home his friends said to him when he got home, 'What happened to you? He said I should never have gone; I saw the old whiskers just before I left; he always brings me bad luck. I nearly broke my leg; I nearly lost my boat and was almost drowned.' I said to myself then I will not go fishing when I see the priest, but I do. I go on just the same because I never get out very much I have not been out anywhere since before Christmas. This restaurant keeps me pretty close.

Mr. Kivelos appeared quite talkative this morning and wanted to tell his troubles; he wanted to tell me about the trouble he had recently in getting good help. "My cook has started getting drunk; the best cook that I ever had too- I raised him up from a young man he stayed off drunk and I had plenty of trouble trying to get some one to take his place until I get him to straighten up. Then my best waitress quit me to get married and every one I could get wanted to make dates instead of work, I couldn't stand that so I get another and the same thing again, I try to pay them enough if they want to work and make a honest decent living they can. But there are so many that call themselves this and that, maybe a stenographer or a cashier or any thing but they are only using that for a blind. They are looking for business that is not under the title she has been hired under. This town is becoming pretty bad the home folks are alright they are good people but the folks that come in from the outside and you know that Jacksonville is getting full of the people from other places. It is growing. The worst thing that ever happened to this city is when they took out the assignation houses from the regular district and let them become scattered all over the city. Men are brutes they are just animals on two feet; some people are improved and cultured above such. But that was the worst thing that happened to Jacksonville.

Mr. Kivelos says, " came to this country in 1907 and the ~~first~~ first Greek I met was a fellow named George West, he was working for the Clyde Line at the time and he told me that he came here in the year of 1895. Mr. West was married to an American.

" The first Greek that married here was a fellow named Atha Ballas, he was married in the little frame Episcopal Church and married an American. This couple have a son that has been with the Jacksonville, City Light Plant for a number of years.

" The first priest that came to hold a service was Father Arsenios ~~who~~ who came here in 1906, this was a special service, however, and the regular service did not begin until 1917, at this time we purchased the present edifice at the corner of Union and Laura ~~Streets~~ Streets. This dedication service was honored by the presence of the Archbishop of North and South America. The first priest that took up regular duty here was Father Sarrese.

Mr. Kivelos gave a little explanation of the engagement or betrothal. " Let us take the Smith and Doe families, Mr. Doe has a son that wishes his daddy to call on the Smith family and make a request for their daughter Helen. Mr. Doe calls Mr. Smith and tells him that he is coming to call on them, maybe the Smith family know why they are coming and maybe not. When they do come they visit for awhile and then when the time is ready Mr. Doe tells the father of Helen that his son is desirous of him asking for the daughter Helen for his wife. Adding that you have always known our family and that we are a clean and healthy blood and that my son John makes \$15.00 a week now what will you give him to marry your Helen. Mr. Smith calls Helen to him and they discuss the matter privately, if Mr. Smith thinks well of John for his daughter to marry he will tell her his good qualities and praise him to her, and if not he will tell her also just how he feels about him. If he thinks well of him and Helen likes him she may pretend that she is a little bashful and shy but says, yes then all is settled as far as the two young people are concerned. The fathers then draw up a contract and it is signed by both. The father of Helen states just what he is going to him to his son-in-law and that Helen will be found to be a fine virtuous girl. (if this is ever found to be otherwise the contract is considered null and void) If after the ceremony the girl is not found to be a virgin the husband can bring her back to her father and also whatever goods have been given to him. In this country if this should happen to be the case the father of the girl will offer the husband several thousand dollars more, for she is considered unmarriageable and where so many things have ~~been~~ bought for a price so has the sanctity of marriage been reduced. But it is usual for the girl to be returned in the old country. Then she is a servant for the family.

Marriage
Greek or American
idea?

Married to a very attractive American woman, she is very well groomed, and has a pleasant personality.

(if the person is married
is the marriage to a Greek,
American or what race?) Mr. Kivelos says, "The reason there are so many Greek men married to American women is ~~the~~ because there were no Greek women here until some few years ago and even now we have very few of marriagable age."

Divorce
Do you believe in it or not? "We do not believe in divorce only in cases of proven infidelity. The wife is granted a divorce at any time by the church if husband contracts a venereal disease or visa versa.

Any divorces in the family?
"No, I have had a successful married life, my mother-in-law as not always been agreeable, especially were ~~the~~ my wifes children were concerned I had ideas about morality which the mother and mother-in-law thought to strict.

Children
How many do you think should be in a family?
"Thsi should be left entirely to God, but Greeks are becoming modernized along with all the other races and they are using human opinions and methods in the prevention."

Amusements
Do you attend picture shows?
How often?
What books do you read?
Do you dance?
What kind of dances?
What other amusements do you have.
"My wife keeps house and does fancy work is a member of P.T.A. and belongs to a bridge club. She reads all better books as she is a member of a reading club. ~~He~~ he has relatives in "aycross and freq ently visits them."
"Used to dance all the popular dances. Had attended the Greek chruch with me but prefers the C hristian Science Church to all others, says that it has helped her to have good health, after all medical care has failed."

Foods
What meats do you eat most often?
"Most Greeks prefer lamb and chicken to any other but they eat what the pocketbook will afford them to have.

Do you have sweets with every meal?
What do you drink?
"No we do not have swweets but about once a day.
"We try to eat for health. I think the reason the Greeks as such good health and long life is because they use so much olive oil with their meals. The majority of them like the outdoors and that too aids their digestion.

Why did you or your parents come to America?
"It was a desire I had since I was a little boy, I wanted to see the new World the land of opportunity.

(If a young Greek man or woman)
Are you going to continue all the old religious custom in rearing your families?
Will you maintain the same restrictions on your daughters?
Have you any ideas you would like to express?
" In Greece I once saw a boy that had out his sister to pieces and her boy friend as well, that permissible and expected when a girl as broken some moral law. The viture of our girls is not always because they desire to be so moral but is because they are afraid to be otherwise, afraid fo their life, especailly in the old countrry. The girls know too that they will not liable for a happy marrie unless they are found to be virturous at marriage.
~~#####~~

Name

James Kivelos (G reek)

Atlas Restaurant, Main St.

Jacksonville, Florida.

Interviewed by: Lillian Stedman.

Address

Age

54

Married?

yes

March - 21 - 1940

How long in America? 33 years

Language used at home?

Eng lish

Education

Where? Athens

How far? High School

Do you prefer public or private schools? Public

Should Orthodox Greek Church unite with Episcopal Church? " We would like to unite with the Episcopal Church and would do it now but for the few remaining members that could not understand the services. In time we will unite with them, we are sure. There are enough of us that would favor the change but for the consideration of the old people we will not do it for a few years."

His statement was corroborated by the Greek across the street that operates a cleaning and pressing business there. He came in for his usual afternoon coffee.

Home own or rent?

Own

How large?

6 room bunga low.

2 large lots which are planted in dahlias.

Work

If a woman, how does she spend her leisure?

very pleasant at my old home for my father had married a woman who died and there was now some stepsisters, dont think I dont love my sisters for I do now, but I did not think so then.

51

58

Pete Mantos, Greek
Owner Terminal Resturant
Opposite Terminal Depot
Interviewed, February 14, 1940
By Lillian Stedman
s

I found Mr. Mantos in the kitchen making pie crusts, he was cordial and asked me to wait until he had finished making up the remainder of the dough into the crusts. He was very capable and before he had had time to turn out no more than two he had completed six.

We then went into his little sitting room that he calls his study, this room was once used for storage perhaps as it was near the pantry and adjoining the kitchen there was a gas heater burning, and Mr. Mantos suggested that I be seated at his old fashioned roll top desk. There were three coffee cups there and each had a little coffee in them, the whole scene was somewhat messy; he made no apologies however.

He began immediately saying, "Now you want me to tell you the story of my life since I been in this country or the story of the time before I come to this country? or both, huh?"

"Well I tell you the whole thing then if that is what you want me to tell for it is not so much.

"I was one of four brothers and my father and mother but I did not have a mother very long for she died early when I was a child, she died at the same time that all the brothers died. My mother used to go out and gather mushrooms for the family and onetime she got some that a snake had passed by and had bitten he left the ~~poison~~ poison in them and when the family ate their dinner they all became very sick even before they had left the table. It just happened that I was late to eat my dinner with my father and grandfather. We had been out to my grandfather's sheep ranch to sell some sheep and the buyer had detained us a lot longer than our mudder had expected. She had eaten and served my little brothers and were all doubled up in pain when we got there. My father he called for a neighbor to go get the doctor but two of the little boys and my mother was already dead when he got there the other one died in a few hours. Ever since then I did not want any more mushrooms. My mother knew how to pick the right kind of mushrooms alright but it was just the snake poison in them.

"That leave a very small family and things were never the same I was only I myself but I could never forget the whole thing. My grandfather wanted to my own father to go away and leave the old home but no he would not do it and they use to be more unhappy all the time. My father was a real estate man and used to keep a house keeper to look after me. I never like to have a woman there but I would not say much I thought, 'this will do until I get a little older and then I will go to America. I never tell my father that I wanted to go away from but I had my plans always before me. My grandfather was a good old man. He had a lot of patience and I use to like to go and help him on his ranch. But my father was afraid that I would not amount to much fooling around the ranch. He wanted me to be a doctor and I had no ambition of such.

"I came here to New York in 1916, I told my father that I wanted to go to America for a visit and he gave me the money, he also gave me plenty to spend and gave me directions about finding some of his old friends here. He didn't think that I might not come back there anymore. Eight years after my mother died I decided to strike out for my luck in America. I had heard of so many coming and making good that I felt the thing for me to do was to say nothing to my father I was afraid that he would object too much. Life was not very pleasant at my old home for my father had married in a few months after my mudder died and there was now some stepsisters, don't think I don't love my sisters for I do now, but I did not think so then.

" After coming to America, I quickly made up my mind that I would never go back there to stay. I might go back there to visit them but not to work and spend my life; there was so much freedom and possibilities here that we never had there.

" I stayed in New York about 8 days and from there I went New Haughton Pennsylvania went to work there in a refinery, worked there for about 2 months and then decided to go to Elwood, Penn. and to work for the Lake Erie Railroad Company, I would stay with a job until the work would give out and then I had to look for something else, I then went to Copeville Penn and from there to Hazelwood Penn and worked for the U. S. Tube Co. made pipes, the war came and then we started making shells instead of pipes. I stayed there until the war was over and they did not make any more shells. After that I moved to North Carlisle Penn. and to work for another railroad company I stayed there for six years and lived with an American family so that I could learn to speak the American Language up till this time I had been able to find a few Greek friends that kept me from being lonesome and homesick.

" I realized though that if I intended to stay in this country I must not confine my friendship to my own race and must learn to speak the American language. This took a lot of determination. I found a lot of nice American friends they were so good and kind they tried to teach me the language. I got me a teacher and she took a great big interest in me she even cried when I told her that I was not going to come to school any more. That woman had something fine in her that I have never seen in anybody else. She was a gift from God. I will never forget her.

" I lived with a family that were just plain people the man was an engineer and made plenty money, he used to make around four hundred dollars every month and still they had nothing in the world to show for the money he made for many years. I just had a room with the family but when the old man got laid off I felt sorry for the people and I told the lady that I would give them a dollar each day to eat my meals with them so that they could have something to eat. I hated to see them starve. The old man would get drunk and raise old billy hell. He was good-hearted though in spite of all his meanness. One time was out in the snow and it was cold and the wind was blowing hard, the old man had no coat on and his shirttail was out and blowing in the wind he was trying to shovel snow. I went to the poor fellow and tried to get him to come in and to let me fix his clothes up but he cussed me out and called me a bad name, He told me I wasn't his kind of people and that ~~that~~ I was damned ole Greek. I said, 'Yes I'm all that but come on let's go in out of the cold wind.' He jumped on me and tried to cut me to pieces. He was meaner than any body I ever seen. When he got home he tried to kill his wife. I couldn't stand any more of that bully stuff for I knew that I would get myself in trouble if I did not get away so I left and after a while the old man got back to work and when he went to work again I went to him and told him, 'Say why don't you save a little of that money for you may be broke again someday, if you can't save much save a little and as you can save a little more. I told him that his money is his best friend and to treat it good and not to discard it so easily. I liked the old man and wanted to help him for his family had been very good to me. I wonder sometimes what ever became of him. I guess he died drunk.

" In 1925 I decided that I will go to visit my old home in Greece, so I sail from New York with 9600.00 in cash, no checks, with me. I visit my ~~step-sisters~~ step-sisters and my grandfather who was then 105 years old. I was thinking that ~~maybe~~ maybe I could find me a wife at home and bring her back to America with me. And sure enough I did I got married and have a good time visiting around with my old friends and then I come back and go to work to make a good living for my wife. But she wanted to go to Cuba for a while she has heard so much about the city. So we go to Cuba and pass the time for several months for I still had plenty of money. My wife was going to have a baby and I wanted to settle down and go to work for them. We come back and the little girl was born in St. Vincent's Hospital

February 1st. at 9 o'clock in the morning. We named her Sceai for her mother's mother.

"Now I come to be the owner of the property where the restaurant is in 1927, business is good and everything looks fine to me. And in November 1930 things looked much better to me cause I had twins born, a boy and a girl. I named them Iky and Dora they are smart children ten years old now.

"But when the children begin being sick I think things are terrible then, for they can get more things wrong with them that I never hear of. All kinds of trouble started to get after me. I bet I have bought at least a whole floor of the St Vincents Hospital. But once they got a contagious disease that was bad and they had to go to hospital, the only hospital that was prepared to take such cases was St. Lukes and they would not take my child in when a friend had carried him over there without one hundred dollars in advance so I come to the hospital with the money which I had and the child went in for the treatment. I have never been without money when I needed it. I owe that all to long hours and saving what I make.

"I own my own home out in Riverside and some fine properties at Jacksonville Beach which I will not part with at any price unless a man is going to give me a fortune for it. It is valuable to me as to anyone else. Not long ago the owner of the bus company came to me and asked me to sell my best piece to him but if he sees the value I know that I should not sell it. It is right next to the Casa Marina Hotel. Someday I will build me a hotel there and some business.

"My children all go to the Public Schools and to the Greek school too they are well advanced in their grades and I will give them all the chances that I think they can take advantage of.

"I carry nice insurance for them and educational insurance for the children no I don't carry any on their mother for if she died I could still take care of my family but if I die she will have plenty to live on for the rest of her life and the children can get a good education too.

"I want to make them good American Citizens and make them love the country as I do. This country is the best country in the world and the government is the best. You have never seen in all the history of the U.S. any better president than we got now. He is trying to help the poor man and some times the poor man that is fed by the very thing called the 'Relief is not thankful. The country would have been in a much more terrible condition if God had not been with this country when the last President was elected. He is a good man. and if he runs again he will be elected I'm sure. We got to have him, He knows what to do to help us out of the trials we have got in.

"We got much better government than any other government in the world.

"I'm so proud to be a real American.

Gus Panos,

Exported and Importer of
Fancy Fruits and Groceries
Vegetables and Delicatessen
Main and Monroe Streets,
Jacksonville, Florida.

L. Stedman, Interviewer.

Mr. Panos is pleasant and apparently quite flattered that he has been selected to tell us something of his life and race. Although on several occasions he was found so busy serving his customers and arranging his stock that he could not discuss in any the detail the matter, he would profusely apologize and ask that we come again, soon. There was genuine sincerity in his smile and voice.

Mr. Panos is about five feet and four inches tall, slightly stout. He is especially active and gracious in serving his customers, displays a real desire to please. His eyes are dark brown and his hair is black—what there is of it, for he is almost bald.

His wife is usually in the store with him and seems to have her pets in serving the trade for she is very friendly to some and almost frigid to others, perhaps this is from her lack of confidence in her ability to use the English language sufficiently to be understood.### She is very thin and ~~but~~ exceptionally # neat, her hair is dark brown and she keeps it looking quite attractive by visiting the beauty shops frequently. Her eyes are large and kind looking, ##### there's a softness in them that tells of humility and at the same time fear. ###

By observing closely the actions of the couple one can readily discern that Mr. Panos' home, business and family is governed by his opinions, although there is much ##### cordiality and warmth displayed in his business.

cus panos
Mr. Panos has two children, a boy and a girl aged nine and ~~###~~ five,
Theodora and Katherine.

The store is located in the downtown section and is a popular
and well-known place, ~~for~~ he caters to the tastes of the elite as
well as the common folk, the display in front of the store is usually
quite ~~#####~~ interesting and attractive, for he has always
on display rare and uncommon fruits and vegetables, things not
commonly seen in other fruit stores, Mr. Panos says, "that many
people will deliberately cross the street ~~##~~ just to look at my display".

Mr. Panos says, " Since I was a little child I heard so many
marvelous stories about the U. S. A. it was only natural that I was
very anxious to visit America or the New World. My father, who is
still living in Calavryta, Greece was an ~~#####~~ Official in the
Greek Government used to tell me about this country with admiration.
Although he was a faithful official of the Greek Government he could
not help but instill in me the freedom and good fortune of being a
citizen of the U. S.

" He gave me an excellent education and impressed me with the fact
that recognized authority must always be respected, but that liberty
is laws arrived at by the majority of free people. Naturally the
Turkish specter was always before our eyes, it was our nightmare. A
government by force, having the military heel of the cruel Turk at
neck of the weak and oppressed.

" I arrived in New York during May 1914, it is hard for Americans
to understand how amazed I was when I saw the Statue of Liberty and the
impressive skyline of ~~##~~ New York. Yes, it is indeed a New World.
No one but a foreign born man can truly understand what I mean when I
say that. It is so different from the old-fashioned Europe, the people
look free, they really do, and unafraid.

" I went to work right away for ^{the} ~~#~~ Metal Mending Company in New
York and managed to make some more money, that gave me good encourage- 62

ment. When someone mentioned Florida ~~###~~ to me , and as I had a friend in Orlando, I took a train and went there, learned the restaurant business. Every Sunday I visited the Episcopal Church, and made many friends.

" From Orlando I came to Jacksonville and worked in one of the big restaurants. One day one of my guests whom I was serving asked me to become a junior partner in his business of fruits ,vegetables and imported goods. Well, I joined him. In 1921 I bought him out and established the present concern.

" I never miss church, and take as active part in Church affairs as I take in my business and I have the same interest in the Greek Community. Of course as we loved America my compatriots took a great interest in local Affairs, state affairs and national affairs.

" We had been holding our church meetings in the little old frame church of the St. John's Episcopal Church that they were no longer using for their regular meetings and they were very kind to help us in any way that they could and Bishop Shields was very good and kind to help us in anything that he could, He was a fine man too, allright. A little later we bought the lot and the present edifice that used to be used by the Christian Scientists, the Greek Community made me ~~#####~~ president ~~###~~ of the organization and we then consecrated all out time and money to the ~~#####~~ ~~#####~~ church and the furnishing of it, Ofcourse we carried on our work among our race where help and care was necessary besides buying the expensive fixtures of our church. It was a lot of hard work for us all. The men on the board first were James Boulos, Nick Alexander, Victor George, John Economou and Gus Panos. We are the ones that gave the church a start.

" We have a good society that does a lot of ~~###~~ charity work to keep the needy ones of the relief of the government.

" The very first Greeks that came to this city were Andreas Koroneos and George Zaprakas or Brown, they were in the fruit business ,

and that was in 1869, they not able to do much about establishing a place of worship for they did not have any use for it then and once in a while a visiting priest from Savannah would come here and hold a meeting in some house of the families and he continued to visit this city until we got our own church and got our own priest

" Later, after the church was in operation we built a Greek School. Ofcourse my two children attend the Public Schools as they are doing exceedingly well in these schools. They are better than our schools, too, because I feel that they are more practical, But my children attend the Greek School, too, because I feel that they must understand the arts and philosophy. During my reading of English literature I was astonished to read in the outstanding writers, such as Shakespeare , Ben Johnson, Francis Bacon the finest thoughts expressed by Greek philosophers, furthermore a knowledge of Greek is in my ~~my~~ opinion almost a necessity to understand English.

" We have naturally a great love and thirst for liberty, therefore I have always supported and will support the principles of the Democratic Party. We think that Roosevelt is the greatest president that this country has ever had. He has tried to do more for the people and has had less co-operation than any other one has had, there are too many parties and factions now in general politics.

~~#####~~

I hope that he will run again. I think that the people will show their appreciation for all that he has done already and give him the honor again.

" After I was here for some time and had acquired some real estate and a place to build a home I went home to get my wife who had been my childhood sweetheart, we had played together as a child and I had promised to come back for her when I had established myself. As you know that has been characteristic of all the older Greeks. 64

" We build a house and furnished it well and we are just as proud of our home as we are of our business. Our house is located in a good ##### suburban district near the parks and a fine school. But I have a fence around my place for I was intending that my children should have more privacy than most children have nowadays, they must study and if they mingle too freely with other children they will get negligent of their studies and will not get the education they they must have. I purposely bought the property with that point in view. The city is growing though so fast until I will have to train the children that they cannot run around even though the neighborhood is becoming so thickly populated.

" ~~My#####~~ "We have much ambition for our children for our children, education is essential for the race and we have to be diligent in forcing it upon the kids.) Sometimes it is easy to let them go but then they may break your heart when they are not able to make a good living and may get into trouble. (We feel that children can be educated to the degree that in time crime will be almost overcome). Ofcourse there will be some that are not strong in mind and will fall victims ### to the long arm of the law.

" My wife's family belong to an old line of Greek officials, they all envy us for living in America. They are descendents from Paleologos they live also in Calavrgta and I know that they do secretly wish that they were here in this beautiful ##### country, that land of freedom.

" I was elected president of the Greek community and have always tried to do all I could to support all the community activities such the Salvation Army, all churches Red Cross and the Chamber of Commerce.

" In order to appreciate these institutions one should have a little knowledge of the European conditions.

" My importing depart brings me in close touch with the European affairs, I supply most of the Greek Steamers that come to this port and after they are gone and the ship leaves for the old country we

are always thankful that we live in the country of liberty, where we all have one President and do not fear to express our opinion.

" After I was established in Jacksonville my brother who had received the major part of his training in the old country came to this country and lived with me and he is now a highly respected physician in Dayton, Ohio.

" We believe that people like to work more here and are happier because there is that freedom which makes life more enjoyable .

" The first Greeks to come here never realized I am sure the ~~####~~ possibilities that for our race that were to come with time and our effort.

" We love and respect the land of our forefathers, but we are ready to make any sacrifice for our adopted country, we like it better all the time. And as an individual group we make an effort to educate all our countrymen in Americanism, Our Greek society is large and we strive to do for all the needy one of our race first but we do contribute other races as well.

" The Ahepa organization ~~##~~ is an organization founded for the ~~####~~ ~~#####~~ purpose of caring for the needs of the Greeks and we are as a whole faithful.

" We love and are always willing to do our part .

" The children of course are our greatest ~~#####~~ inspiration to us. we uphold the old greek customs according to the Church as near as we can. The Greek daughter must be married first no matter even if she is six years younger than her brother, that is to have the brother assured that the sister is well married and settled in life, then the boy can think of himself. We try to give our daughters all the protection possible .

##

Little Katherine Panos, with her ## brother come into the store on some errand and it then that we discover that she can speak Greek fluently, as well as English that has very little foreign accent, this child is daintily dressed in a baby blue silk dress with little rosettes on the neckline and around the sleeves. Already there is entrusted in Theodore the responsibility of looking out for his sister.

Both of the children were well-mannered and waited patiently for their father to question their visit to the store.

The little daughter has the features ## of her mother and also the same expression, the son resembles the father strikingly and it plain to be seen that here is pride and hope of the Panos family.

Anakrimous Panouss (Greek)
Samos, Greece.
Owner of half interest in
Tasty Coney Island Luncheonette
Forsyth and Ocean Streets
Jacksonville, Florida.
Interviewed, April 15, 1940.
By: Lillian Stedman.

It was about 9:30 in the morning and I found Mr. Panouss seated in the rear of the restaurant, slouched lazily over a table with his resting in his hands; apparently enjoying the leisure after the breakfast rush. Mr. Panouss is the cook for the business.

The Tasty Coney Island is operated by brothers-in-law. Mr. Panouss is typically dark-complexioned and heavy-set; he must weigh around 220 pounds and is well over six feet tall. The brother-in-law, Mr. Vallis is fair, light brown hair and light hazel eyes. Mr. Vallis manages the front of the business and caters to the trade in such a pleasing manner that one usually feels that he has had a service rendered him after lunching in this attractive, cheery place.

The odd thing about this pair is that they call themselves brothers one moment and the next they call themselves cousins. They are cousins married to sisters.

Mr. Vallis said, "John, wake up and talk to the lady. She is a nice lady; you tell her about Greece and your own life since you been in this country. I have to go back to the front and watch out for the customers.

John, as he is called by his partner yawned and stretched himself and while rubbing his eyes walked toward me and extended his hand, saying "What do you wish to know about the old country of Greece? She is a beautiful country and a sweet country but I done been here so long now until I got the American blood in my veins, and I may not can think of things to tell you about the country. You see things have changed so much since I come to dis country 28 years ago. I come here in the year of 1912 and I have not been back to my country since I left it.

John slowly drew a box out from under the table and said, "Have a seat and we will see what I can think that will be good to tell you. My feet hurt me and it will be good for me to sit down and talk to you for awhile; I am too big a man to stand so much on my feet all the day with no time off to lie down. (His feet were large and he wore white socks as soon as he was seated again on the box he pulled off his shoes and began rubbing first one foot and then the other.) He continued, "When I came to dis country I go right on to the this city; I had a brother here in the business and he could help me to learn the English and tell me the business so I can open up something. My brother, he go away to America when I was a little boy and I here my mother read the letters telling about the good business chances a fellow has in and I want to come. I plan a long time, since I was a small boy to come to America. I want to come get in the business. My brother was running at that time the Crystal Lunch on Main Street. He make good and send money to my family and I see people go home with money in their pockets and they have too many clothes and shoes and things that we on our income in Greece could not afford and it was just the natural thing for the mens to think that they would like to come to America. And why not? "e hear the country in pioneering state and that everybody is making good money

and there is a chance for all the people to make something and do something for their families. Then you know the country was having good times and and big industries were paying good wages. Everything was in the building then, not like it is now and they had to have men to work. Men to work on the railroads and men to build manufacturing factories and men to work in the factories. Now we have transportation in so many ways and then these things were young and they needed men for jobs that they now use machinery for, and if you stop to think you will see that men were once in more demand than they are now. The country was building to be what it is now. Now we have too much competition and there is not the big money to be made by the ordinary business man any more. You take the restaurant business for instance you see there is one of them on every corner and if not a restaurant then there is a hot dog stand and if the people stop and eat hot-dog they do not wish a whole meal they just wish another hot-dog. That is why we do not make the money in restaurants they used to get.

" I will not make you think that I am not satisfied for I made my share of money but I was foolish and lost it in the boom of Florida. I lose too much and should have because I did not value my years of hard work any more than to throw it all away. I learned that the money I get too easy, it does not stay to my side. Greeks usually have more sense than to do like that but I was not the only one to be left in the same shape. I lose everything I had and my chance to go back to visit in the old country. Now it is too late.

" In 1918 I while I was in the army I cook for the camp and make up my mind that I will make good in the restaurant business and when the war is over I start out for myself and open a nice little business and I make it pay good and save here a lit of money again and think I will send a lot to my mother to make her happy for the rest of her life then my sister, she get sick and I have to send her the money to have the doctors to treat her. And all the money that my mother get has been 20 dollars a month out of me ever since I been here in this country. But I never neglect her not one month and she live good off of it. She is too old now, maybe she die any time she is nearly a hundred years old. She been a widow too a long time and would not come to me but wish to stay there and be buried by papa. He had a good job for the long time with the government and make a good income for his family but he died too soon. I dont remember what the name of the job, wait and I ask my brother, he knows what his name of job was. 'Hey, Clem come here and tell the lady what the name of my papa's job for the government was I cant think of the name in the English. Clem Vallis laughed and said, why do ask me; he was not my father he is your own father. Mr. Vallis came toward me and said, " John here, he can not think of the English translation, somethings puzzle him very much. The Greek is easy but the English it put him on the spot sometimes. His father was a clerk of the Criminal Court. He held that job for many years. This explanation seemed to please John very much and he seemed proud to have me know that his father had held that honorable position.

" I am proud that I am a member of the American Legion and wouldn't take any price for being with them so I can have the chance of going to the Veteran's Hospital when I get sick. I be n there twice already. I think I will be the next cook for the hospital. I get a letter that they will ~~be~~ give me their next opening. I will be so happy my wife she will like it too. We do not have any children and we will

have a good home for the rest of our lives. If I get sick I will have good medical attention and so will my wife. I have plenty of insurance for my wife if I die first. I have gotten soured on the restaurant business. There is too little bit of money in it for me and Clem. He has good faith in the future in this little business. It is good so far for us both but we have make little money since we have to buy so much new fixtures and equipment. We have a good business down on Bay Street but there was no profit to it for we ~~##~~ have to serve a full course dinner for only two bits and there is no profit in that thing. We do much better here because we sell a very much of the hamburgers and hot-dogs. There is not and waste to them and there is now expense in preparing them. We had too many people down on Bay that wanted to get the credit and thought that we should give it too. Here the business is all cash and we have only very few that have asked for credit. This business was very badly run down when we got it. This place used to belong to another Greek but when his wife died he just lost his heart and and didn't care about the business; he let it go ~~the~~ the dogs and a business that has run down is worse to build up than a brand new one.

"We Greeks like to eat and make much out of it, but you Americans think nothing of it and do little about it either. The Americans are in too big hurry and don't know how to enjoy their eating. They are afraid to take the matter seriously. They are the worst people in the world about not eating and that is the thing I don't like about them. Otherwise they are the best people in the world. And they are smart. But they do not like the work like the Greeks do. ~~We~~ all will work 18 hours a day to make the business be better and to save money but the American, he like the eight hour day. But this is a wonderful country and the freedom is the greatest thing in the whole world today. There is still a chance for many to make a success. I am getting too old now for to make the plans all new. I make the money though one time but I was foolish and get rid of it, Now I be poor for the rest of my life I think.

" I am proud the good times of business were done so that I could take good care of my mudder. My wife's mudder lives with my mudder and when I send to one the other will have some of its good. She have grieved so much for me to come home that I have tried to give her plenty of everything. She has a few goats and a nice little garden and they bear good g vegetables and she have chickens too and in the summer she have some goat meat. I know that she is well nourished and that she is comfortable. I will never see her again though, I know that I will not. She knew that she would never see me again when I leave for America; that is why she cried. All the mudders cry though and feel like they will never see their sons again. I tell her Mudder, I will never leave you if you say that you wish for me to stay home with you. She said, 'No, my son you must go to America. It will make you a wonderful man and make you rich. You must go'.

" It takes a heap of courage to leave your own country and face a new world when every thing is strange and different tongue. The Greeks have a great courage.

" A poor boy in a large family has such a little part of happiness for himself; for if he is a brother to sisters he naturally feels a great responsibility for their happiness. He works and makes the

Panouss #4 sacrifices that are nearly always necessary for their wedding. I know many boys that have had so little happiness for tehmselves. I am glad that some of the Greek boys in dis country are getting over the old ruls of the church. Everything in Greek rule is getting more modernized and like the American customs. I know a man right here in dis town that has thrown his entire life to the winds for the sake of his sisters and that is unfair. A man has a right to his own happiness. It is bad too for the Greeks to hold to dis-suctom for while the men are forced to put off their own wedding day the population of the Greek race is getting samller. Dont-you think this is right? The women is on the same equal as a ### man; she has a job today and some times they make their own success quicker than a man could make it.

" We have tried to keep our women from entering in the political business and also from working but Americanism is doing more for them than we can and so we are ## not holding to the old rule. Nice women have been working for a long time and it did not hurt them so we thiik if a girl can help herself by making her own living why not let her do it. It is though the Greeks that have been born in this country that have this freedom of life. The Greek women from the old country are not able to do much, they are no good in the business. Some times they cant say the English words and go on speaking the Greek which is not good for he public business. The public does not like to have a man and woman in business that cant talk good English for they feel like they are being talked about and they will go somewhere else to get their hot-dogs and hamburgers. I got the American blood in my veins good and strong and am more American than anybody can tell. Also the old Greek wife does not vote, she cannot understand what it all about and the husband prefers that she does not. She will get too smart and that is not too good. She will get too unhappy and make herself too dissatisfied. The girls that grow up in this country are some different and they will do just like the Americans do. Just give them time. Especially when all the older Greeks have died then you either see the difference or then you will not notice.

" You mind if I get busy now and make some pie crust? I got to make pies today. You can watch me and keep on talking to me and I will try to tell you what is good for you. Do you know how to pick good flour? Come here and I will show you something that you will like to know. See, this is good flour it will stand like I shape it in my hands and when you see the flour that will not do that but will fall it is no good. Every good cook should know this, I like to make a good pie best of all the cooking. It is nothing and I can could make it with one hand and my eyes closed. I have good luck with this flour and it is a pleasure to use it. O, yes we have the good luck stories too, like the Americans. But I heard mre of them in this country than I hear in the old country. But the Greeks will not go near the cemetery after dark for they say that the spirits walk out in the evening. You can not find anybody around there after the night comes. The Americans tell us the black cat is bad luck but I dont find that so. You can look under the table there and you will see a big old balck cat and she is very good luck to us f# she catches all the mice in the block and she can not bring all the bad luck but she has give me a nice piece of pleasure when she bring in those little kitties she she got in the box. We do feel thought that if we start to go somewhere and we see the old preist and we are then planning to go somewhere; we just as well stay at home for it will be better for us, cause we will have the bad luck without # fail.

" We are the same way about the white or brown rabbit in our old country that you Americans are about the cat here; if one runs across our path we turn around and go back . We like the dreams, for that is the way that the great prophets were warned and guided there is plenty good advice that comes in dreams. We all pay a good thought to our dreams. You can ask the priest and he will tell you they are ways that God has of guiding you.

While he talked he rolled and kneaded the dough with his large hands and I did notice that he failed to wash his hands after rubbing his feet at length. The pie-crusts just appeared seemingly without any effort whatsoever. In no time at all he had ready for the oven 10 pie-shells all beautifully crimped around edges and they would have been the pride of any homemaker. I asked, is your wife a good cook too and can she make pies that look as tempting as those out there on the shelves? This seemed to please him very much and brought forth a hearty laugh would cook if you had a husband that cook better than you, he answered " My wife is very nice and smart but she is no good for the kitchen she is spoiled; like all the cooks wives get. O, ~~see~~ she can make a good cup of coffee and broil a fish and such but she makes it so hard and I can make it easy. I meet my wife when she was a little girl working in the dress factory in Samos, she was a nice quite little girl and I never dreamed that someday she would be my wife. But after I get my sister married and there is nothing else for me but to get married; then my sister say to me in her letter, 'do you you remember the little girl we knew in the factory she would make you a good wife, she is pretty and a very good to her mother, that is the way we can tell a good girl in the old country. So I tell her to write me about the girl, if she will marry me and come to America. So in about three months my girl was in this country and I met her in New York and we get married and come to this city and have been here ever since. She has gone to see her family but I did not go with her. I sent her there so she could go to the sacred well for her health. She did get some better. And she enjoyed to see her ~~mother~~ my mudder and my mudder also.

" We had no children and sometimes I tease her and ask her if she was in love with someone else before she marry me, They say if a girl is in love with osmeone else that she doesnot marry she will never give her husband any children and also if she does not have something old and like a family remembrance tied to her wedding clothes without her knowledge. This is supposed to break up any old l ve affairs for both the man and the woman. I t is better that we have no children. I tell her that been alright if we had not lost all the hard money we saved. We lost too much money for trying to amke some more by gambling. S ome times the Greeks have too big a family and then have none at all. There is a fellow down on Bay Street runs a fruit store and he is a poor man. He has nine children and is going to get another one soon. The order has to just about keep him up, he should be ashamed to have anymore children. This man was once the richest wholesaler and never thought that he would come down to having the church and the Ahepa take care of him.

and This friend of mine is too old to get a job with the WPA and too old to make money. But you'd come to him for it. This friend of mine is too old for the WPA and he thinks he can make more out of the fruit store than he could get for asking for the old age pension. But he keeps on getting his family bigger and bigger.

Panouss # 6

"He is hard to tell anything to. He thinks because he has had the sense to make money he is a wise guy. But that old man is only good for one thing.

"The politics are good, this time, there is much opposition and that always makes it most interesting. I like the president that we got now better than any that the country has ever had. He is the best in the history of the country. I always vote a Democratic Party ticket. I hope that we will have a good governor for the state of Florida this next time. The people in the southern part of Florida get their living off the rich people that come there to spend their money and they should try to give them something for their money. If they don't they will go on to California instead of coming to Florida. The state has had too many governors that were interested only in serving their own interests and sidetracking all the money they can for their future use. This a great state and there is a world for promise in this state. I pray please let the man get the office that will work for the state instead of for his family and a few friends.

Clem Vallis called to him, "Shut up, John don't you know that the lady is not interested in politics and they are no good in a book, but they are good when you can get the right man elected through your vote for him. Then he added, "Why don't you give the lady a piece of your pie and a nice cup of coffee?"

John appeared more or less embarrassed and said, "Why of-course How about a nice piece of Boston cream and good black coffee? Have a seat on the box there by the table and I will give you something good. But be careful there is the black cat under the table and if you scare her out of her bed she will maybe run in front of your path then you will have the bad luck all day.

Mr. Panouss returned with a very generous portion of pie and said, "Now you forget the American custom and be a Greek and sit there and enjoy yourself well. We were all taught to take time and enjoy our eating and you see it make me a big man and you can grow up some high yet, you are too little and if you eat much of that you will be some thicker too. I will make you a nice cake sometime for your family and maybe your husband would not like for me to do that, huh? No, you are not married yet, well, well, you Americans either marry many and plenty of times or you don't get married at all. The Americans think nothing of divorce so they get married easy, but the Greeks think it a disgrace to have divorce. He only get married one time unless his wife die. It is a divorce that brings disgrace to the Greeks. But I must be careful our people are also getting very much like the Americans and maybe in a few years things will be more and more Americanized.

While he talked he made more pies and when finished they were most attractive. He makes them from his original recipes and has named them himself. Some of which are: Chocolate puff, lemon cheese, apple-apricot fluff and of-course the old reliable lemon custard. Pies are not all the dishes that Mr. Panouss makes. ~~He prepares all the~~ This place specializes in hamburgers and hot-dogs and light lunch and the fine coffee.

Lucas Jacksonville

Cecelia Poulos

" I think that the conditions in the old country are far worse than in this country for they have not got the feeling of helping one another that we got in this country like the helping that we all get, if we have the need of it, over there its all for one and none for all, that means that each one tries only to help hisself and not the nation in general.

" I think that the present government administration is the best that we've ever had but of-course there's always a ~~lot~~ *lot* of money gone to waste in all big things like the relief and such.

" None of our people has had to have the help of the ~~###~~ relief except in the way of borrowing money for the use of building and keeping the homes they already had and paying the taxes.

" My father he has been in the store business for a long time ever since I know anything about it, he used to have a little grocery store and we did not have all the nice things then that we have now, but my father he is a good buyer and my mother she is a good saver and knows how to save the money in the home and she never did spend too much of it in that way for like I told you she always do all the work the hard way and then you see she can save the money by not buying a lot of things that some people buy, like going in the debt for a heap of things for the house but she just do the best she could to save and make something in the home while my father he do the best to make smething in the store, so we get a little money saved up and then my father he go in the big store and sell nothing but sweets and from the day he ~~opened up~~ opened up he has done a big business.

" He always been able to send us to a good school, he thinks a youngun can learn more in a private school than in the public school but I dont thinks so. He pay 3.50 a month for me all the time I go to school from the first to the time I graduate from the high grades and my sister the same. So you can see he has been a good provider to us.

"My husband he make about thirty dollar a week for his own out of the business but then it take a lot to eat and have enough and for the bills we have to pay for, the car is paid for and he keep insurance for the car you can never tell when some body will run into you and tear you all up and ##### maybe kill you so he keeps the car insured for accidents and that is costly somtimes for the good kind.

" My husband it is not so good in the ### summer months because there is not as many tourists and business going past as in the winter but maybe he can build it into a good business, there's no money workin for anybody unless you got a mighty big job, we think its best to try make a good name for yourself.

" Everbody in business has to give a certasn amount of charity out for there is people that will come to the business man that they think is got smething tho give away whether he has or not, and if he doesn't then it knock his business.

" My chillun tired out today they play so hard down at the beach , they don't know when to rest up, dey just keep on a playing and when I tell them we coming home they try to get all the fun in one day at the beach so dey get all the sun and burn-up from it. I think they would take the ocean home with them if they could only.

" My husband he come down to the beach every night after he close the store and we have a good visit there for two weeks.

The chillun have so much good time but they worry me so mooch about the sun and the deep water, I am glad to get them home again for I have not been feeling so good again for I think I am going to have another baby already again and already there's so much to get done that I dont never get to go to the shows like I want to I like to go and have some good times and that is a lot of trouble and cost so mooch money to us. But then we have them and dont let it worry us for we think that we wont have no more than God wants us to have anyway so if we have more then we will be able to take care of more for that is the the way that we measure our fortune.

" We are taught that if we have one child that we will have enough to take care of one child and if we have five then we will have the strenght to make a living for five.

"My father he come to this country when he was a very young man and then send for his wife to the old country and they have five children and good success.

Ceceillia James Lazos Poulos
2883 College Street, wife of
restauranteur and daughter
of successful business man.
Interviewed April 21, 1939.
Lillian Stedman.

*ack - J. Cecelia Poulos. Lillian
Lukas*

Ceceillia Poulos

The appointment for this interview was made several days previous and upon arriving at the home of this charming Greek matron one would think that she had planned some gala occasion for the house was decorated and the children were dressed in ~~the~~ silk dresses.

Mrs Poulos herself was dressed in a beautiful blue lace and had a ~~the~~ corsage of fresh sweet peas pinned at the front of her dress. She had been expecting me for she answered the door the moment I reached the front porch of her modern little brick bungalow that is situated in the ^{best} residential section of Murry Hill. As we entered her living room she most apologetically stated, "O you have to excuse it my husband, he is not here. He is at work, you know he have to be there at the business." she continued, "Business is not so good now and it is so that he must be always there to get it." *Jan 20 Reception -*

Mrs Poulos was married in 1935 *Jan 20 Reception -* in the Women's Club and she had promised to get the pictures of her wedding attendants as well as the newspaper write-up. "the wedding matter, she began well, I'm so sorry but I cannot find any of it now, one of my girl friends had a copy of it and even she has ~~the~~ lost hers so I guess I can tell you all about it but of-course I cant say that I remember all about it like some one else could for you have to remember I was the bride in question". This she said with a smile as though one should understnad# if any of the details were not given.

Three year-old Elizabeth made her appearance at this time seated herself beside and said, "What is your name and what do you come here for anyhow you want to see my picture? Her mother sat still smiling her pleasure at her small but frank spoken child and then added, "She expect you all the morning I told her you was

coming and to keep herself clean. # They like to dress up."

I will bring in the other little girl for you to see she got her hand hurt this morning, her sister there hurt her they are so jealous of each other that big one there fight the little one terrible she would kill her I think If I did not be around here to watch them . I dont think thought that she mean to be so mean and bad like that but hope that they will #### stop fighting one another and be good chillun, ##### Bolo, bring the baby here to see the lady and then get some Coko Cola out of the ice-box for the lady too.

" This is little Polly and she name for my sister Polly at the store, she is little and I think too that dis one be little too like her. That Elizabeth is a big girl for her age and that is why she hurt the little one so muchw when dey fight like .

It is noticable that Ceceilia Poulos speaks good English ##### without much foreign accent sometime it is soticed that she gives her O's a very long sound and that she srequently incorrectly places her words in the construction of a sentence s,

Ceceilia is of a large stature and has the usualstrong feature of the Greek race, brown or black eyes and black hair but as she holds her baby in her lap there^{is}/evidenced much maternal tenderness as she keeps pulling down the little one's dr ss and strives to keep it well below her knees ##### thss called attention to the fact that the other child's dress too was longer than ### usual and also ## had much fine hand-work on it.

Bola retuned with ice-cold Coko Cola and candy, choclate creams Ceceilia offered the candy again and again eat as much as you can it is good and cold, the chillun they do not like candy at all so I have to eat it myself, my husband he go by my father's store and buy cany every day from him. You know that is the way of showing that he wish him much good succes in the store. He knows that the chillun 78

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no eat mooch of it and I have to eat it. Sometime I give the maid candy to take home too my father he should be in some other busines for my sake for it make me too fat."

"I use to sit and eat candy and crochet and eat candy and crochet dat is how I make so mooch of the handwork you see all over everthing I like pretty thing and my husband he like it too so I make every thing myself the poteirs and the scarfs and chairbacks and the amntle covers and the tableclothes and a bedspread on t.e bed in my room there".

he portiers were indeed a thing of reel beauty as well as being most unusel in their design, a world of patience was cert anly ## needed to complete these alone. They were made of tiny round med-#allions and these crocheted together forming streamers that grad-uated in length from a foot in the center of the opening between the living room and the dining room until they reached the floor at the side of the wall on the ends were ha nd -made fringe this same design was carried out in all the other crocheted pieces which included a mantle cover and c air-backs and tablecloths a d bedspread. However the quantity of the hand-work did not de-preciate the beauty of but rather enhanced it.

On the table in the dining room-room #### was a huge basket of mixed flowers which were sent to Mr. Poulos on his birthday by a business man. The other floweres were fresh and were places decroastively thr oughout the living room and dining-room.
"T
Ceceilia said those flowers of my husbands I should throw them out but I must wait to tell him about it for they come from a good friend of his and he love him so mooch I would not throw them out
till he say so, the other flowers I order this morning for you coming .

"I told my husband that you wanted the story of our marriage and he told me to order the flowers so when you come you will know that he loves me very much and that he is happy to be married to me as much today as the day he married me, he could not be here himself to tell you but he said the flowers would tell you."

This expression of his love to show that he still loved his wife was interesting for it had cost him at least ten or twelve dollars to purchase these several baskets of gorgeous roses and carnations. and naturally the children were on their best behavior during this hour.

Elizabeth had by this time gone to sleep with my her mother's purse in her lap and Cecelia continued to rock the baby who did not make any move or try to get down but looked constantly at me as she sucked her thumb.

Cecelia said, "I am so sorry you ~~##~~ dont know how that I cant get the clipping of my wedding for you for it was a beauty alright We had an orchestra to play the wedding music, you know what piece I mean, about here comes the bride and the girls sang a song about I love you so truly and I was dressed in white satin with a boat neck and buttons all the way down the back and long sleeves, white kid shoes and white roses, my dress cost me 35.00 . My brothers were dressed in tuxedos, I had bridesmaids and junior bridesmaides 4 of each Their dresses were made by the same dressmaker that makes mine when (quality) was the best dressmaker the Princess Shop has. My daddy gave me in marriage just like the American custom is and then we had a big dance at the club and everybody had a good time for we had lot of good thing to eat for every one and then we had a honeymoon to Miami for two weeks and then he must come back to go to work for he is married now and Greek husbands try to take good care of their wife. and give dem everything they need.

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"Our customs in marriage is not much different from the American for if we want to marry out of the order then we say for it is not necessary that we wait for the oldest one of the daughters to marry that is the custom of the church but all of the Greeks do not follow the church as ~~close~~ closely as they use to, the older ones that come from the old country follow it alright but the American born do not always follow it, the parents would be happy though if they would but we have to do like the Americans do. "

" Now for instance if my little sister Polly was to take a mind to get married next it would not matter so much to my daddy and mame for they have seen so many of the church customs given up by us that they are use to it by now but I dont think Alisbeth will make Polly do that for she can get married anytime she gets ready for she got a fellow she go with now for three years and if they thought that Polly wanted to marry they would get marry for her so she can not feel like she did wrong, we like to do things the right way for to make everybody happy with us.

"I was married by the Priest, he was here before the priest we got now but his kidneys were bad and he had to go to another climate for his health.

"Our husbands are good to wife they are not drunkards and all but stay home with their wives if they be sick and cant go out to the shows and to the dances, we have a club and most of our pleasure come from there for we have dances and picnics and we take the children and go to these things and the children can play with the other children and get acquainted while we have a goodtime.

" All Greek families send their children to the school where they learn to speak more Greek than they would at home for we do not speak so much Greek in our homes when every body in the house does learn the English, it is best that we try to speak the English good and so we do not talk much Greek before one another but send the children to the school

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so that they will have the friendship of other Greek chillun and learn enough to be able to speak some Greek for it usually helps them in business later.

"The Greek school is conducted in the afternoons and on Saturdays I am going to send my chillun to the public school, I went to the St. Joseph's Academy my daddy though that I could learn more if he paid for my education and he always sent me to that school and paid 3.50 a month. Elizabeth went there too but the baby sister she didn't like it and wanted to go to the public schools and she did, she graduated from the Free High School two years ago and she is brighter than us that had more expensive training.

"My mother she never learn to speak the English language she has to speak the old language of her mother country although she been here for a long time she stay home and have the chillun and work hard like a servant for all of us she wuld never have a maid to help she thinks that is lazy not to do all the work yourself, she come here forty years ago and ~~she~~ never go out much to see other people and just stay home and work and do everything the hard way we try to show her the easy and modern way of doing housework and washing but she says it isn't good enough, she is happier when she can work hard for her family and that is all the fun she want, but me I gotta go to the shows and all and go out riding.

"One thing we dont do that the American girls do and that is to have dates with the boys until we are 18 years of age or more, our ~~fathers~~ fathers are very strict about that. And a Greek girl will not marry a man unless he doing some business and can take care of them right. Not like some girls that just get married to stay married for a little while. We always try to stay married if theres a chance in the world to do it for we are ashamed to be divorced and the man as much as the women.

"My husband is a good bit older than myself and all he thinks about is trying to make and save something for the child en to get ~~educated~~ educated with, he is good and spends all his money for us. We got a

Government on this lot when we got married and built this house, we should have got more money and built a better one for the neighborhood is out growing our house it is too modest and little, the other homes all around here are so much better than ours we are going to try to save some money each winter so that we can soon have another one that looks prettier. My husband is not making much money now and we are having to use a little of the money we made last winter to pay our expenses. He could make more but you see he has a partner in the business with him and it takes care of two families and theres not so much profit to be made in the restaurant business in the Summer like in the Winter.

There was certainly no evidence of there being any lack of any thing for the home was beautifully and moderately furnished.

" We have our children insured not for a health policy but fire policy so that they will have money when they grow up and can start in business or take special training for business. We do not carry any insurance on our selves for if I should die I know that he would take care of the children and if he should die he knows that my father would take care or help me take care of the children. Our families always help each other, even cousins take care of cousins children before they ask for relief of the government.

" The lunch should be about ready, you must be awfully hungry by now I hope you like my menu today for I have tried to fix you something that is good to us, it is barbecued chicken I fixed it myself strawberry short-cake.

" Would you have some of our wine, it is good to start an appetite up. I have it on ice so dont drink much but just a little before dinner when my husband ~~is~~ here and then we enjoy our food.

The food was delicious and nicely served by the maid, the children had Coca-Cola with their meal and were well mannered at all times the order of everything was quite noticeable with such small children in the house, the baby was only two years old and ate of the samethings that we were served, both of the children were in robust health. ##

The meal was disturbed once when the phone rang, It was the sister Elisabeth calling to tell that a letter had been received from their father that had accompanied his son to a well-known hospital for an operation, Cecelia appeared most joyful when she returned with the news , " O I am so glad that my brother he is not serious ---we thought maybe he should be to the hospital for the operation for he had a thing like a boil on the end of his spine and my father he took him to Rochester but the doctor he say that it is just a boil and not to be worried, it be all alright so soon now. My mama she must be very happy today to hear about them. We love our people so much"

August 22, 1939.
Rev. Elias Skipitares,
Minister,
Eastern Hellenic Orthodox
Community Church,
"The Revelation of
St. John Divine"
Corner Laura and Union
Streets,
Jacksonville, Florida.
Rose Shephard, Writer.

REV. ELIAS SKIPITARES, (GREEK)

MINISTER,

Greek Church, "The Revelation of
St. John Divine"

- : -

Rev. Skipitares had made an appointment to be at the office at 9 a. m., and promptly on the dot he was at the head of the stairs.

Rev. Skipitares is a large man, with heavy sleek black hair, deep-set gray eyes, with a handsome full-growth beard. His skin is fine-grained and smooth, with a slight olive tinge. Dressed in his appaca suit, with long flowing coat, his bishop's collar, plain shirt, and no jewelry, he could not be mistaken for any other than a minister of his denomination.

He is a man of pleasing personality, with friendly gestures and a ready smile; seemingly afraid of being thought unobliging, he was more than willing to co-operate in giving any information.

"I suffer greatly from the heat," he said. After being seated comfortably in the hall by an open door with the cool

breezes wafting through, he spoke most interestingly of his early life in Greece, his journey as a young man to the United States, and his life year by year afterwards.

"I am now fifty-two years of age," he said. "I was born in 1887, in Tripolis, the capital of the State of Arcadiid, in the Peloponnesius of Greece." He arrived at his age from rapidly subtracting the years that had elapsed since the World War by referring to his discharge papers from the American forces which he removed from an inside coat pocket.

"You know, in those early days they did not keep birth records in my country. It is only since the war that they have established the means of recording births for a permanent record.

"I had several brothers and sisters, but they are all dead now, except one brother and one sister living in the old home town.

"It was decided early that I should be a priest. There were no schools in the little village where we lived, so my father hired a private teacher and I started studying when I was only six years old.

"I went right on studying until I was ten. Then I was taken into Tripolis, a city of about 10,000 people, where I passed successfully the examination that admitted me to the high school.

"I had a cousin in San Francisco, California, and a nephew in Chicago, Illinois. In 1907 I decided to come to

the United States. I have a cousin, in fact, several relatives in Alexandria, Egypt, but we talk things over, and my parents decide things better for me in America. They did not object to my leaving home -- it was just a question as to where I have the best future.

- "A nephew came with me from Tripolis. I was twenty and he was a few years younger.

"We landed in New York City, staying overnight at the Immigration Office at Ellis Island. Late in the afternoon of the next day we take the night boat into New York, and are put on a train for the west, in care of the conductor, bound for San Francisco.

"The next day we arrive in Cincinnati, Ohio. and the second day in St. Louis, Missouri. We have to wait here two hours for the train to the west. We were very hungry, as we did not like the American stuff they served us on the train. They gave us bologna, but we would not touch it, and they charged a dollar for it, too.

"We took a walk outside the big Union Station in St. Louis and I spied a Greek newspaper boy. I called him, so glad to see one of my own countrymen, and he directed us to a Greek restaurant nearby.

"We hardly started good, when the conductor who was supposed to look after us, spied us, calling to a policeman that we were running away, and back we went into the dingy station without a bite to eat.

"When the time was up, we were put aboard the train again. The next stop was Denver, Colorado. We had to wait here three hours.

"We were famished by this time, so we watched our chances, eluded the watchful conductor, and found a Greek restaurant where we ate everything on the bill of fare. This was our first full meal since leaving Ellis Island, three days before.

"We went on to Cheyenne, Wyoming, where we were held up twenty-four hours on account of a wreck. A policeman watched us here, so we had no chance to leave the station. When night came, another took his place. It was getting pretty cold, so we doubled our blankets and rolled up to sleep on the benches.

"The next morning, while the policemen were changing watch, we were looking out the window and saw some schoolboys. We must have looked funny to them, there was an Italian boy had joined up with us, and the first thing I knew one of them had thrown a rock through the window and hit me on the forehead. It cut a pretty deep place and started to bleed. I had a pocketknife with a long blade I had brought with me from the homeland. I took it from my pocket, opened it and started out of the door after the boy who had thrown the rock. I chased him for a block or so, when I ran plank into a policeman. He interfered, let the boy get away, and made me put the knife back in my pocket and lie myself back to the station.

"Later on when our watchman was temporarily off duty, we left the station again and located a bar, where we ordered

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out there. I bought it for nine cents a gallon and sold it at five cents a quart. For eggs I pay ten cents a dozen, chickens 25 cents each, and lamb, seven cents a pound. There was a saloon close at hand, and there we could get beer at twenty-five cents a bucket. In those days, we all worked hard, and ate heavy, and the beer was a great help."

In answer to a direct question, he said: "Yes, we have beer in Greece, very fine beer, made with barley, but it is quite expensive. Only the rich can afford it, and people come to the beer gardens and drink in the evening -- nothing else -- like you here eat icecream."

"Parents in the old country do not mind their young men drinking beer, it is all moderate, and they are most concerned, the father especially, ^{to} the future of their children, and they see always that they study and do not be much idle."

He resumed his story: "I sold my milk stand and we move on to Missoula, Montana. Here I first contact the union. It was in this town that the first union for dishwashers, waiters, and other restaurant help, was put in operation. A man was hung in a tree for disobeying rules."

"Here I work for the railroad -- the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul. It was a hard winter, much snow and sleet, and the trains were stalled everywhere. This was in 1908. I remember one time the snow plow started out and cleared away the snow thirteen feet deep."

"On May 15, 1908, there was a three-foot snow in Montana, and after this, the tracks were cleaned and the first train -- passenger train -- went through to Chicago."

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"We move on that summer to Idaho, a small place called Watrous where the time is changed. There is a long tunnel -- on the west of this tunnel where the train comes through, is Western time, and at the east end of the tunnel, is Central Standard Time.

"We kept on going west and finally landed in Spokane, Washington. This is the first time I see women wearing overalls. They were picking strawberries. This was in 1908.

"In Spokane I got the idea to enlist in the United States Army. I went three different times to the recruiting office, and each time I go there is nobody there -- only a sign say to come back at some later hour, mentioned on the card on the door. I got discouraged after the third time, and say to myself -- "Three times is enough. I do not go any more."

"I took a job of construction work at Mansfield, Washington. It is in the desert country, and everybody who has the contract gets discouraged and gives it up. Nobody completes the work, and the job is hanging fire.

"Well, I took the contract, brought some of my people up there in wagons, and we start the work, but it is impossible to complete it. It took President Roosevelt to finish this job -- the famous Coulee Dam.

"We work at most anything, because when you are a stranger in a strange land you have to look out for the dollar.

"We kept on until we got to Spokane, Washington, and got a

at
job with a new power company, /Huntington, Wash., on the Snake River. They were building a big dam to furnish power to the states of Idaho, Washington, and Oregon -- a big electric plant to supply power from the Snake River. This was desert country, too. Hardly anybody stayed. But I held my job and stayed right there until the last concrete was poured. It looked like a beautiful piece of work, but in 1910 came a big flood and washing everything away.

"There were two companies that handled this job; the first, Rogers and Co., which went bust, and the other, William White Company, of New York City. They put up ten million dollars, finishing the job. But I left before the flood.

"I went back to Spokane, Washington and took a job with Norfleet Construction Company, then I took up a homestead of three hundred and twenty acres at Oraville -- on the border between Washington, in the United States, and Canada on the north. After a year or so, I got some prairie land -- 320 acres -- purchasing some horses and cattle. I was there was 1913 to 1914. I decided to stay right on, as it took some time to prove up on a claim.

"In 1917 the war broke and I enlisted in the United States service. About seventy-five boys enlisted in September 1917 at Oraville, being sent from there to Camp Lewis, about fifteen miles outside of Tacoma, Washington. It was a beautiful camp.

"Fifteen days later, President Wilson sent me my

exemption papers, on account of being a farmer. But I refused to go back. I was assigned to the Ordnance Department, I had charge of a squad of fifteen men, and each day we inspected five thousand rifles -- grease and everything.

"When the armistice was signed in 1918, I was transferred to Erie, Ohio, to a training ground where they shot big guns into the lake -- Lake Erie.

"Then I went back to the farm.

"Not so long afterwards, Uncle Sam sent me to a vocational training school, a part of the Washington State University, at Seattle, Washington, where I studied to be a doctor. Here I received my final naturalization papers from the government at Washington, D. C.

"When I was still at the University of Washington, I was receiving private instruction in Phrenology from Mrs. R. J. Fuller, wife of Prof. Fuller, a famous phrenologist, of New York City. After Prof. Fuller died, Mrs. Roy J. Fuller, his widow, married a Greek, named Chouras, and went to California, where she was known as Mrs. Fuller-Chouras.

"Mrs. Fuller had a young lady pupil, also studying phrenology, and she afterwards became my wife.

"I would not take anything for my knowledge of this great subject, old as the hills, but most, most useful. I use it all the time, and it helps me to decide many problems that come up in my work as a minister.

"The young lady and I went to Salt Lake City first, where we opened an office, she talking to and teaching the women, I, the men.

"We went to Salt Lake City, opening offices there, and later in San Francisco, where we were married. We also opened an office in Los Angeles. The Bishop of the Orthodox Greek Church came to San Francisco on his first visit, and I went up from Los Angeles to meet him. I showed him my papers and my past records, talked with him as to what I had in mind, and he ordained me as a priest. The service took place at Chile, Nevada. For six months I traveled over the west

"One of these trips was through the desert in Nevada, so hot that the stones were like furnaces, and we had to travel at night. One day we started out from Arena, Nevada, and traveled ninety-nine miles, when we ran out of gas two miles from the nearest town, Coldfield, Nevada. The oil station was behind a knoll, so I left the Bishop in the car and walked the two hot miles, having a hard time to locate the little village, almost hidden behind a hill."

Asked about the exchange in use then in the west, Rev. Skipitares said: "There was no silver and no currency, just five, ten, and twenty-dollar gold pieces."

Continuing his story: "I took my post as a priest of the Greek Church in Los Angeles, and was there for two years, when I was transferred to Phoenix, Arizona. I was the first priest to hold services there, and I put up a nice little church. There were a good many Greeks in the community, being out there to get relief from tuberculosis. I stayed there during 1931 and 1932, having only seven converts in all the territory of Arizona, which included large towns like Nogales and Flagstaff, also Bisbee.

I covered the whole state in my Model-T Ford. One time when we were in the mountains, the old thing balked, and my wife had to get out and push the car. It was so hot on these travels that I carried two sacks of water, one on each running board -- the water would boil in the tank, and I had always to be prepared. During a long trip, both sacks of water would be consumed.

"Then I went to Bakersfield, California, and built another church. There are many sheep headers and farmers in that section, where produce is mostly wholesaled. Fine honey-dew melons are raised in that part of California, and quantities of grapes. The climate there is like that of Greece. Everybody worked, and worked hard.

"The only lazy people I find are in the south. Everybody has servants. I do not mean particularly, Florida, but North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi. The people buy everything. When fruit is plentiful in the market, they do not can and preserve it for later use, but buy, buy, all the time. My explanation of this is that the English people were first to settle in the south and they had plenty of money, so there was no reason for them to economize. Then the colored people were brought into the picture, then slaves, and they had them to care for and to feed, so why not let them do all the work? In the West, in the North, and the East, the housewives can peaches, pears, grapes, tomatoes, and other fruits and vegetables, and there is always plenty and a great variety for the children to eat."

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Returning to his work as a minister, Mr. Skipitares continued:

"From California I went to Massachusetts, fifteen miles from the city of Worcester, where the Bishop thought there was a good field for my work. The people in that section were factory workers, but the factories were closed, and everybody was hard pressed for money. The WPA had taken over one mill which was placed in operation on a part time basis. Each Saturday I would go to the welfare department and they would give me bacon, eggs, rice, cheese, vegetables, and sometimes meat, which on Sunday I would have my secretary distribute share and share alike to my congregation. The church was \$35,000 in debt, having a membership of only twenty-five families, yet I started out and in thirteen months, I had all debts paid. I traveled over the entire New England States -- Rhode Island, Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont and New Hampshire. The entire amount was donated, starting with five dollars, and on up, as could be afforded.

"Next I was sent to Bangor, Maine, but the altitude was too high for me there, and I was transferred to Raleigh, North Carolina, where I held services in a little hall. The people there are poor, with no money to build a church. There I stayed two years, coming to Jacksonville in 1938.

"The Greeks of New England are probably the most prosperous of any in the United States, when the factories are in full operation, as there is plenty of work, and they are paid well. When the factories are closed, I do not know how they manage.

"I do not like Florida -- the climate, I mean -- it is too hot here. I have been in the deserts of the west, where it was so hot I could not travel in the daytime, but would drive all night, yet I never suffered with the heat as much as I do here. I have moved to the beach road near the ocean, but it is hot; now I have a house in town, which is supposed to be cool, yet it is hot. I find my people complain a great deal of headaches here, caused by the hot sun. "

Referring to a former interview where dreams were discussed, Mr. Skipitares said: "Yes, I believe in dreams. But the interpretation is partly a gift. You remember Joseph was in prison, but God gave him the ^{gift} ~~ability~~ to interpret the dream.

"As to fasting, that is as old as the world. Jesus was a human being, yet he fasted, and kept his health.

"When I was a student of Mrs. Roy Muller-Chumms, taking phrenology, I was also studying the effect of electricity as a means of curing disease, and the use of the natural electric currents of life from the sun. For instance, infantile paralysis when properly treated is not fatal, nor does it leave one crippled, if intelligently handled.

"One man in Spokane, Washington, came under my care, for treatment of sleeping sickness. I had him up and around, but his wife called the doctors who gave him shots of arsenic, which killed him.

"This work I do not get here, but from the Universities in Greece.

(To be continued)

October 16, 1939.
Rev. Elias Skipitares,
Minister,
Eastern Hellenic Orthodox
Community Church,
"The Revelation of
St. John Divine"
Cor. Laura and Union-sts
Jacksonville, Florida.

Rose Shepherd, writer.

REV. ELIAS SKIPITARES, (GREEK) MINISTER,

(Interview II)

Continuing along his medical observations, Rev. Mr.
Skipitares said:

"Doctors sometime do very bad things. If they cannot
correctly diagnose a case, they just give a tonic or a little
stimulating prescription, saying: 'Take this, it will make
you feel better, and come back tomorrow.'

"In this town I try out different medicines in my own
body, to observe the result -- I want myself to see the
effect of certain drugs.

"Yes, if I get sick I call a physician. I follow his
directions and expect him to help me, but I do not depend
on him altogether. I use my own things, too.

"Fasting is sometimes a great help. We have the custom
from Greece, it rests the physical body and develops the
spiritual body, producing God's great gift, the ability to
foretell and foresee. For two or three years I fasted fre-
quently, but I gave it up, now observing only the religious
days of fasting and prayer.

"You know it is written in the Bible where the Greeks
went to Jesus, and He talked with them, explaining that man is
to glorify God.

"He gave the New Testament to the Greeks, saying:
'If the world goes upside down, my Word prevails.'

"Christ, Himself, fasted for forty days. The Orthodox Greeks fast four times a year, commemorating the four corners of the earth, the four disciples, the four archanes, and the four pillars that hold the earth. Heaven moves, but not the earth, according to the Bible. That is why the sun gets so hot -- it is set in one place. And it is like the Word of God --- 'The earth and heaven may be removed -- My Word is not removed.'

"The reason for some and so many religious beliefs? Oh, well, that is because the heads of the Church at different periods of the world's history, have set up their own translations, deleting what they could not interpret, and inserting statements and theories they wished to incorporate. In other words, they fixed up the Holy Bible to suit themselves. That is why we now have so many different denominations.

"From a medical standpoint, I have come to the conclusion that the mother's mind has great influence on her unborn child. You will remember the article in the newspaper just a few days ago, where a Phillipine mother gave birth to a baby with its heart outside its little body. The mother is a Catholic, she was under the tutelage of a Catholic priest, with probably a picture of the Sacred Heart in the room, or

probably she wore a cord around her neck with a picture attached on a medal of the same illustration, which she fingered and looked at constantly. This pre-natal influence affected the child, resulting in a freak birth.

"It is my opinion that a pregnant mother can make her child anything she wants. That is psychology.

"It comes from a Greek word - 'phy - eholo' meaning you find the secret of your soul. As a child in Greece I was taught not to seek so much material things, but as the Bible says -- 'The Kingdom of God within.' I wanted to have the great gift from within - intuition. Lots of things a mother knows comes so quick she does not know where she gets it. It is an impression direct from the soul.

"When I was a young child I knew our life ^{comes} from the sun; that the life currents enter through the solar plexus - the sun center; that a blow on the solar plexus was to be avoided, because it was fatal to life.

"The front of the body is positive - the back is negative. If a woman has a pain or headache in the back of her neck, do not let the heat of the sun shine on the nerve center there, but place her so that the sun shines on her throat, opposite the pain, and it will cure it.

"But sad to say, the doctor gives an anesthetic for pain, putting the nerves to sleep, or the person trying to relieve himself takes a headache powder, containing what he knows not, instead of using the ancient treatment.

"We cannot live without the sun. If there were no sun, there would be no life on this planet. Our physical life and our physique is tied up with the sun's vibrations. If people were removed from the electrical force of the sun, or compelled to live under different planetary conditions, they would either become weak or not survive at all.

"The sun also causes the fruits and vegetables to grow and mature, and used as food, they are quicker and more satisfactory in restoring the normal condition of a diseased body than drugs and meat.

"Getting back to pre-natal influence, the father also has influence upon the unborn child at a certain period. You see a child up to the ninety-day period is nothing but flesh, then it begins to move and becomes a little warm. After ninety days, if the father and mother, say, at the table, begin to quarrel over some trivial thing, or if they have other children and there are harsh words and quarreling, it is very harmful. The mother takes in these hateful sights and sounds, and it produces a hateful, quarrelsome child. Or say, a pregnant mother were sitting here sewing, and a neighbor comes in and picks up something and walks away with it -- a bottle of milk, or an article of clothing; then when questioned lies about the incident. The mother takes this in through her eyes, and it is forced on the unborn child, who will become later a thief and liar. He is marked before he is born, his destiny inflicted upon him through his mother having been forced to witness and pass through this unfortunate

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"Before he was born Christ tells us in the 51st Psalm where David says he was born from his mother's belly. Our people of Greece know that -- mothers teach it at home to their children.

"The Grecians are a people of faith and devout. The Orthodox Greeks do not believe in limitation of families. Of course, the younger generations over here, I cannot say. I suppose they understand the modern birth control ideas, which, I am sorry to say, were first promulgated by a Catholic priest, and taught to his parishioners.

"But the Greeks believe this: If you bring one hundred babies into the world, each has its special gift and contribution to make to civilization.

"Not so long ago a young man of my church came to me and said he wished to get married, but could not afford it. He was a druggist and struggling to make good financially. I said to him that marriage is the proper state for man, and if the girl were willing, go ahead and not think so much about finances and what money will buy. They were married in my church. When the young wife became pregnant, the husband came to me greatly worried, saying her time was near at hand and he did not have the money to send her to the hospital. I said - "'Sell the drug store. The baby that is coming is worth all the drug stores in the world. He will more than make up for your temporary financial difficulties.'" Well, he sold the drug store and the wife went to the hospital.

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"She came through fine, giving birth to a beautiful baby body. The husband went to work as a clerk in a friend's drug store. After all bills were paid, he started adding to what was left of the two thousand dollars he realized from the sale of his business. He had good luck, and now, twelve years later, he is prosperous and happy, has three drug stores and six children.

"The Greek women are probably considered old fashioned, they defer to their husbands, making a kind of partnership, like - 'Well, we are starting a life together, we will do the best we can, we will work, labor and love, and be happy, and maybe we will prosper, maybe we won't - whatever God wishes us to do.' That is marriage based on the right principles."

Shown a newspaper illustration of the wedding party of "Wrestling Adonis" - Jim Londos - whose marriage reported August 18, 1939, in the Florida Times-Union of Jacksonville copied from a Beverly Hills, California, newspaper article, and asked about the flower crowns used in the Greek ceremony, Rev. Skipitares said:

"Jim Londos married! H-m-m- - yes, I knew him very well, a fine fellow. Well, the Bible says a rich man had two sons; one took his inheritance and left, later coming back to his father, after fooling away his property on material things, and ate with the pigs. So Jim Londos is

married. Well, I wish him all the luck in the world.

"About the flower crowns -- martyrs went to their death with a crown on their head and a ring from the people who loved them. When one becomes king, he is invested with a heavy crown; when Christ went to the cross, he had a crown of thorns. In the Greek wedding ceremony, the crown of flowers, the two tied together, means the couple is united, to live together until death parts them. and they assume together the responsibilities which God may cause to come their way.

"The prayer chanted at the time they are crowned as bride and groom is for their happiness and steadfastness as man and wife in God's sight.

"Well, I've got to go now. I am parked overtime downstairs and if I do not get my car out right away, I'll get a red ticket, and I know you do not want me to have to go to the police station.

"If any additional information is needed that I can supply, I shall be glad to have you call on me again."

August 11, 1939.
Georges K. Stathis
(GREEK)
Restaurateur
118-120 Hogan-st.,
Jacksonville, Florida.

Rose Shepherd, Writer.

GEORGES K. STATHIS, RESTAURATEUR.

The small gold letters indicating the location of 118 and 120 Hogan Street on the slender glass windows on either side of the modest entrance give no idea of the interior utility and beauty of the restaurant owned and operated by Georges K. Stathis, Greek resident of Jacksonville.

The floor is inlaid with small pattern tile in a design of black and white, the walls of larger tile in green, with insets of pastoral scenes of softly blending colored tiles imported from Czechoslovakia. There are six of these scenes on a level with the eye, three on each side, size three by four feet, composed of small black 4-inch tile, carefully numbered and put together with cement, forming a beautiful picture resembling for even so short a distance of six feet artistically executed oil paintings.

Down the center of the room are three square pillars, indicating the partition wall separating two store rooms, removed when the building was remodeled several years ago for restaurant purposes. The pillars are faced on the four sides with mirrors for a height of six feet, adding to the idea of spaciousness. The floor space is sixty by six sixty feet.

The cash register where someone is always on duty ^{is there} Mr. Stathis himself, from 7 to 10 a. m., 11 to 2 and 6 to 8 p. m. - and at other times, his brother, Johnny, ^{takes over} ~~rests on~~ ^{is at} the end of an elaborate black marble counter, which extends down the full length of the north side of the room, with stools accommodating forty persons. The metal trimmings of the stools and counter are always brightly polished.

"Where shall I begin?" asked Mr. Stathis, ^{explaining that} ~~who was an~~ hour late at his evening task, explaining with a laugh that he had been engaged in ^{playing} ~~a game of~~ rummy with some of his brother Elks at the Clubroom a block away, and did not realize how much time had slipped away, - "and I lost, at that!" he concluded, ruefully.

"Begin at the beginning ^{//} ~~before you were born.~~"

"Family, ^{you} ~~oh?~~" he smiled, his light hazel-brown eyes, set in a round face, lighting with quick intelligence.

Mr. Stathis is a medium-sized man with brownish blond hair, and was dressed comfortably in ^{you would wear} ~~all~~ white shirt and trousers, ^{because} ~~as it had been an unusually warm day.~~ His quick nervous hands made rapid change as customers came up to pay their checks, and in quiet moments he brought forth a clean dish-towel from under the counter and deftly wiped away the moisture as drinking glasses "defrosted" on the black counter.

He ^{kept} ~~cast~~ a watchful eye ^{on} ~~across to~~ the south side of the room with its snowy covered white tables - those for two ^{down} ~~along the wall and the center with larger tables seating~~ four - where regular guests including many family parties

had assembled for their evening meal.

"Perhaps if you sit on this first stool at the counter, you will have plenty of room to write, and I can talk without too much interruption.

"Johnny, bring an order of icecream, and later on a cup of coffee." The order was quickly executed.

"You should always have something warm to drink after icecream - unless you want an ulcerated stomach," he explained.

"My family originated in Leanideon, in the province of Arcadia, Greece," Mr. Stathis said. "This is in a mountainous section near Sparta, on the southeastern shores of Greece on the Gulf of Argolis, an arm of the Mediterranean.

"The house in which I was born has been in the hands of the Stathis family for over two hundred years. It is built of stone from the nearby mountains. It is a low rambling structure with a red tile roof, and the walls are two feet thick. The small windows open outward, and one cannot sit by the window and reach out over the windowsill, the walls are that thick. You have to stand in order to bend forward and open the windows. You see in that country there are frequent earthquakes and that is the reason for the low, staunch construction of the buildings. The village has a population of about five thousand, and all the houses and stores are of this type. Dynamite is the only thing that would damage them.

"The town is in a low valley, with mountains to the north, mountains to the west, mountains to the south, and the wonderful, blue Mediterranean to the east.

"The climate ~~more nearly~~ resembles that of California rather than that of Florida.

"There are many olive orchards, and for centuries that section has been a olive oil producing and exporting country. There are also small fruit and truck farming activities, with the cultivation of many vegetables. The soil is like that of California.

"Carrots, cabbages, ^{ifera} ~~oere~~, eggplant, potatoes and beans are raised in the greatest abundance. One of the latest cultivations is the 'Kentucky Wonder Bean' imported from America. They call it the American bean. It grows on vines twelve feet or more in height, and the bean-pods are two feet long. The beans are round and full, and delicious.

"There are oranges, lemons, limes, and quince - such quince - twelve inches in diameter, like melons! The housewives peel and cook them until tender, then sweeten with thick strained honey, and when thick and ^y sirupy the mixture is emptied into shallow trays.. When cool it is cut in small diamond-shaped pieces, wrapped in oil paper, and served like candy. It is ~~most~~ delicious. Some is coated in powdered sugar, wrapped in fancy gilt paper and shipped as ⁸crystalized fruit for export.

"Sometimes they are cut in half and baked. Once a week the women light up the tile ovens ~~and~~ ¹¹ bake the native milk-bread in long loaves. When the oven is cooling after the bread is removed, the quince are put in ^{and} baked in the slow

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heat. Delicious? The odor carries on the mountain air for two miles, and what a smell! This is one of my boyhood memories.

"I left my native land when I was only nine years old. A brother of nineteen was in New York, serving as a waiter in a large hotel, and thought it would be better for me to come over to America where he could look after me and perhaps I would have more opportunities than in sleepy little old Leaside where very little happened out of the usual course of life and death, planting and harvesting. That was in 1903.

"A man from the village was crossing over at the same time, and my father placed me in his charge, but he failed to take care of me.

"We left Greece and went to France, but could get no news of a boat on which we could sail to the United States. In Paris I lived a month in a stable, then the man took me to Marseilles where we spent some time, and he finally deserted me. I made my way alone to Havre, and listed among the hundreds of steerage passengers on the American Steamship Line's Deutschland bound from ^{for} ~~Havre~~ to the United States. We were sixteen days crossing the Atlantic.

"During the journey there was a fire in the hold, somewhere in the freight storage rooms, and a man came rushing in saying the ship was on fire. I was sure scared, and I was so little ^{and alone and there was no one} ~~with nobody~~ to turn to for help or comfort, but I just climbed up in my bunk, ~~and stayed there~~, covered

^{my} up head and ears, ^{and stayed in} until the excitement was over. It was terribly rough down there in the steerage with the vibrating engines and so many people milling about.

"It was on a Saturday when I landed in New York, the Saturday before Easter in 1903. I remember that well, because the sailors put on all steam and shoved the Deutschland into New York harbor a little ahead of time, because they did not want to work on Easter Sunday.

"My brother, James, met me, ^{looked very} and ~~he looked so~~ grand in his store-bought American clothes.

"He took me to his home - an apartment with about twenty-five other Greeks - you see they did not make much ^{money} wages, ~~as for~~ most of them worked in restaurants, ~~either~~ as waiters, or in the kitchen as cooks, food-handlers, or dishwashers. From morning to night or from night to morning, ^{they were} on their feet, ~~all the time, and for \$18~~ ^{and their salary for this work was about} a month. That was the reason so many of them went together in a five- or six-room apartment, which they furnished themselves, doing their own work and laundry, and cooking when off duty.

^{In those days} "The people who cry for more money and shorter hours ~~nowadays, with unions, and pay for overtime,~~ ^{it is hard to} cannot possibly picture the condition of these men with whom I was thrown in those early days. They would come in, their legs aching, their feet numb from such long standing, and throw themselves on a ^{run-down} ~~sunk-down~~ cot for what rest they could get, with the el/ thundering by on regular schedules, the air stifling and thick with smoke when the windows were open.

"I went to the public schools for a few years, but the New York kids made fun of me, and one day I ran away.

"You see, I was not used to attending school with girls, and they worried the life out of me. In my home land, boys and girls attended the same public schools, but the boys were on one side and the girls on the other, with separate rooms and different teachers. We were at no time thrown together in classes, entertainments, or any other occasion.

"The Grecian schools, by the way, give the youngsters thorough training in what you call the 'three R's' - reading, writing and 'rithmetic - and put especial attention on languages. Greece ^{though} is such a small country, only around about 64,000 square miles, and there are so many foreigners with ^{and with its amount} ~~has~~ numerous seaports, ^{done} ~~and lots of shipping back and forth that~~ ^{coming in,} it is ~~most~~ ^{known} necessary to be able to ~~handle~~ ^{in addition to greek} two or three other languages, generally French, Italian and German, ^{are taught} in order to converse with the visitors, seaman, and traveling public. Some English is taught also. In Athens, for example, native linguists are common, and all the big stores and hotels, restaurants and ~~banks~~ have interpreters who speak as many as six or seven different languages fluently.

"Well, I was gone for six months, and my brother was much worried before he finally located me and learned the reason I had deserted him.

"I had found a good job for myself - carrying a sample case for a salesman twice as big as I was, for \$2.50 a week. Then I worked as a messenger boy, and afterwards as a hotel messenger, a swell job, as I was supplied ^{with} a gorgeous ^{blue} uniform, ^{trimmed} blue with gold braid, and a cap like a drum major's.

"In those swiftly passing years the best job I ever had was a check boy at Rector's, the old Rector Café on Broadway

at 36th Street. I worked there two or three years.

"About this time we had heard of the activity in sponging in the Tarpon Springs section, and as brother Jim and I had saved some money we decided to go to Florida, where the climate was more like what we had been used to, and go into business. We bought a sponge boat, fitting it up, and trying our luck. But it was no good. A storm came up, we lost our catch of sponges, and also lost the boat. I tried doing outside work at the sponge market, earning a little that way.

"You see that tall boy over there?" pointing to a young Greek waiting on the tables across the room. "Well, his father, John Kokoris, was the one who started the new business of Greeks diving for sponges, and was responsible for having the divers brought over to engage in this work. It was he and not Macrenaris of Tarpon Springs that got Mr. Cheney, the capitalist, interested in this new idea.

"John Kokoris was familiar with the work of the Greeks in the sponge boats for divers along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, where they sometimes went down as deep as one hundred and fifty feet. When he saw the method of operating in the Gulf of Mexico - a bucket with a glass bottom through which the sponger looked and then drove his long three-tined pole into the sponge beds, tearing off young sponges and old, ruining others, he knew that the diving system was ^{a better method} ~~more~~ profitable, ^{and} ~~as well as a better mode of work.~~

"There was a feud between the Greek spongers at Key West and the colony at Tarpon Springs. Mr. Cheney called the United States Coast Guard to help quell the difficulties.

"Old John Kokorus had a small cannon mounted on his fishing boat. The trouble lasted four or five months. That was in 1904, but with the help of the Coast Guard boats threatening the Key Westers, the differences were ironed out and peace reigned once more.

"It was in 1906 we went to Tarpon Springs, and after we went broke, we left in 1908, returning to New York.

"My father died in 1908, and we decided to send for my youngest brother, Johnny. I had secured work as a messenger with the Tierney Hotel on Broadway in New York. Mrs. Tierney lived at the hotel, and whenever she wanted flowers or anything from Lord & Taylor's or the other department stores she used to send me. I would rush out, select whatever she wanted with great care, and rush back all out of breath. Mrs. Tierney ^{always} made such a to-do over what I did, ^{and} it would thrill me half to death. One day she said, "Georges, ~~you~~ ^{what} have ~~quite~~ ^{you have} a long face, I have ~~not~~ ^{it} seen you smile this morning. What's the trouble?" I told her I had put most of my savings in a ticket for my youngest brother's passage to the United States, and had made several trips to the Immigration Office, trying to explain to the stern officials that I was able to support my brother. ^{you see,} I figured I could get him a job with the kind Tierneys and have him right with me - but ~~they~~ ^{the officials} did not have much confidence in my ability to support myself even, much less a younger brother, and as Johnny was now on the ocean, it looked like he would face deportation on his arrival, and I would lose the money I had sent him for his ticket ~~also~~.

"Mrs. Tierney said, - 'Now, don't you worry about a

little thing like that. I'll ask Mr. Tierney to look into the situation.'

"I did not know it, but I guess Mr. Tierney was quite an Irish politician. ^{I found out later that} He was a great friend of ^{President} Mr. Taft, ^{and} so I ^{found out later} ~~he just~~ wrote ^{him} President Taft a letter, ^{about the trouble I was having} and the first thing I knew Johnny was at the hotel all safe and sound, without even a notice.

"We put Johnny in school, and Jim and I worked and saved our money.

"In 1909 we went to Arcadia, Florida, staying a short time, and in 1910 we again landed in Tarpon Springs. We started a lunch room and went broke for the second time in that town.

"We came back through Jacksonville, on our way to New York. We stopped overnight with a friend here, and he said - 'I know a man who has a lunch place for sale over here on Bridge Street, (now Broad Street).'

"How much' says Jim.

"Well, I think you can buy it for \$50.00."

"The fare back to New York was around \$55.00, so we had to figure pretty close. Our friend took us to Mr. George Jeffrys who operated a market on Forsyth Street, back of the Mason Hotel, and explained the situation to him - that we had only ~~enough~~ money to buy the lunch stand, and would have to have credit for at least thirty days for our supplies.

"Mr. Jeffrys said: 'Let's look at your hands.' He wanted to see if they were rough and calloused -- in other words, if we were used to hard work or had the soft, smooth hands of a

loafer. Mr. Jeffrys took a long look, then he said 'Okeh.'

"We agreed to buy everything from him, and by that evening we were in business in Jacksonville on Bridge and Ward Streets, Mr. Jeffrys even buying the place for us. It was called the Eagle Lunch -- I never knew why -- and the trade was all colored. We had a good business, of the kind. That was in the days of the old horse race track out on Moncrief Road, and when the negroes had a good day at the track, we had a good night's business. But I could not get used to the negroes, I hated them. I had been associated with such nice people in New York, and I was homesick for my old stamping grounds. I had two or three fights with some of the colored boys, and I said to Jim we had better get out of the neighborhood before some of them either killed me or I killed them.

"We finally sold out, and brother Jim went back to New York, and I stayed here, keeping Johnny with me. We worked at the Savoy Theatre for a while in 1910 and 1911, then I took my brother with me back to New York. We bought a place in the Bronx, and in a short time went completely broke.

"We had a friend in Jacksonville who wrote us that ^{Cafeteria} Applegate's ~~Cxxx~~ adjoining the Gem Barber Shop and across ✓ the street from the Consolidated Building on Bay Street, was for sale. It was not much of a place, but he made the arrangements and I came on and bought ~~the place~~ ^{it}. I fixed it up nice. I was the first one in Jacksonville to put a tile floor and tile walls in a restaurant, Gilreath's following later in their restaurant on West Bay Street.

"In 1912 Greece was at war, and my brother went back to the old country, joining the infantry, leaving me here by

myself. Through Mr. Adams, of the Barnett Bank, I had borrowed \$600.00. I was kind of discouraged. It was just before the World War, things were all jittery, there was a depression, and lots of people in Jacksonville went broke.

"About this time the Plaza Restaurant on the opposite side of the street next to the Gem Theatre was for sale. I knew it was a good location, but I could not see myself going into debt to the extent of \$18,000 or \$20,000 on a kind of a gamble.

"One day my friend, James Poulos, who had quite a successful fruit business here, said - 'Let's buy the place together, and run it until Jim comes back from Greece.'

"The deal was made. In 1913 we had a pretty hard time. In 1914 came the start of the World War. My brother came back in the meantime, and we made the place pay. I was running the cafeteria and Jim ran the Plaza.

"In 1917 I enlisted with the Jacksonville troops and was sent to France in the World War.

"In 1919 I returned. Mr. Cleaveland, the furniture dealer was putting in a line of Columbia Grafanolas and wanted our location. We had a two years' lease, which we disposed of to him, and moved the Plaza up near the Barnett Bank.

"In 1920 I bought the lunch room of the Seminole Hotel and ran it for ten years. Then Mr. Demos leased the whole building, and I came to this location on Hogan Street and have been here ever since. 1925.

"In the summer of 1926 I went back to my old home in Greece for a visit, and married my childhood sweetheart.

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"We own our own home at 1736 Market Street, and have two young daughters -Eugenia, who will be twelve on the 27th of August and Elizabeth, seven. They go to the Rutherford Public School on 5th and Market Streets, and are both getting along nicely.

"I ~~and~~ my family are members of the Orthodox Greek Church, St. Johns the Divine, on the corner of Laura and Union Streets. There is a Greek School operated in connection with the Church during the regular school months, and our girls go there for two hours each school day after the regular session of the public school is over. They are taught the mother tongue, and read from the Greek classics in literature, which will be of great help to them later on when they go off to college.

"There are about three hundred and fifty Greeks in this community, and they pay the Greek teacher. The fee runs about \$2.00 per month per pupil. The Order of Ahepa, a national Greek fraternal organization, for the promotion of Greek welfare in the United States, built and paid for the school building adjoining the rear of the church on the Union Street side.

"These children never expect to go to Greece - they are full-fledged American citizens, and it is our desire that when the younger generation grows up people will not say that they are from Indo-China, Asia Minor, Greece, or any other foreign country, but self-respecting, law-abiding Americans.

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"During the course of the school term, the little children put on three or four shows. City officials and prominent people are invited to see the progress of children of the local Greek citizens, and it is not unusual to see members of the City Commission - Thomas Imeson, Fred Valz, 'pop' Ulch, and others in the audience.

"Easter week is a time of festivity with us, and we always give a picnic at Rubin's estate on the St. Johns River in South Jacksonville. Here again the city officials are seen, some of them have such a nice time they never miss one of our picnics.

"Our religion? The Orthodox Greek Church uses a ritual service, ^{which} is not at all related to the Roman Catholic Church, but almost duplicates the Episcopalian. Efforts are now being made in the United States to have the Greek Church affiliate with the Episcopal Church, and no doubt in time this will come to pass."

During all this time, Mr. Stathis kept up a merry jingle ~~had a word of greeting for as they came in to pay~~ with the cash register, ~~as customers paid their checks, all~~ with a ²cherry word of greeting as they left. His place is popular with businessmen, and a glance down the counter showed at one time six well known "summer widowers," who are remaining in town while their families are sojourning in the Carolina Mountains, the New York of ^{San} San Francisco Fairs, or abroad. Marcus Fagg, President of the Children's Home Society, whose wife and daughters are away this summer on a long trip, paused with a word of greeting, exhibiting a letter just received from Mrs. Fagg postmarked in New Zealand and which he said described a wonderful visit they

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Fiji

had concluded on the ~~Rogee~~ Islands, embarking from an unknown port, which he said he had been unable to find on any map. He had just finished a five course dinner at the immaculate black counter, with a late copy of *Life* ^{magazine} spread out before him as he ate.

"Georges, how about cashing a check for ten?" inquired a local moving and storage man, "I'm a little short."

"Okeh," said Georges. "You want a check on my bank or on your bank?"

"Well, I expect if I'd check on your bank account I might raise a larger sum, but I might go to jail, so I'll just take a blank check on the Florida National."

From a desk behind him, Mr. Stathis quickly produced a block of blank checks, which he handed to his customer, and gave him the change after deducting the fifty cents for the plate dinner he had just been served.

"Some of my patrons have followed me all through the years," said Mr. Stathis. "I serve only the best food at reasonable prices, all vegetables are steamed and cooked in the best grade of olive oil, I make a specialty of seafoods, and they are all carefully prepared. Some of the lawyers who used to eat at the Gem on Bay Street still come to me here.

It is great to make friends, but best of all to keep them."

Mr. Stathis ^{does not look like a} ~~has no look of a~~ Greek. ✓ He speaks good English, avoiding long words, ^{using short} ~~speaking directly in crisp,~~ uncomplicated sentences, forcefully illustrating his meaning with his nervous expressive hands. ^{In his face there is no} ~~His jolly face bears no~~ ^{Evidence} ~~look of worry, or~~ of the strain and hardships he must have endured in establishing himself at last in a paying business.

"When I went back to the old country in 1926, I had been away twenty-three years. Things had not changed to any great extent. The town still had about its usual five thousand inhabitants.

"The Greeks limit their families, and ^{babies} deformed or crippled, blind or otherwise incapacitated ^{ed} at birth are 'thrown over the mountains,' an expression to indicate the physician has destroyed them, according to law. Everybody is better off so. There is no use prolonging such a life - the country is small, and sustenance is hard for even the well and able-bodied. There are no blind beggars on the streets of Greece, no hopelessly diseased, poor, or decrepit.

"The Greeks in their own environment are a healthy hardy race. They take care of their bodies through tradition and pride. Where I came from, only the best food was used - fresh fruit and vegetables, the fruit sweetened with mountain honey and the vegetables seasoned with olive oil. They do not use pork at all - there are no pigs in the country. Tuesday and Saturday were ~~days~~ ^{the} days for the slaughtering of beef and mutton. On those two days only was fresh meat available. No cold storage has ever been introduced there. In between the meat days, the people live solely on vegetables and fruit. The milk is mostly from goats, which thrive in the mountains, and goats are free from tuberculosis. The milk is rich, and cheese is most nourishing and delicious.

"And doctors! Only two to take care of five thousand people, and I should not wonder that they'll starve to death from want of business!

in the United States

"In the early days of railroad construction, /young Greeks ~~used to come over and~~ enticed by the high wages offered, ^{come over and} used to go in large numbers to the construction camps in the west, but they could not stand the rigors of the cold climate. In no time they contracted tuberculosis and came home to die. ~~There were~~ ^{about} five hundred from our little village alone.

"I was the youngest boy ever to leave our town - nine years old - when I started for the United States, and it caused quite a commotion.

"I wish I had a picture to show you of this little village where I was born and where my family has lived for over two centuries. A small river runs through the center - the Daphne, which is Greek for oleander. These shrubs line the banks - white, pink, and red - most beautiful, and seems like they are always in bloom. In the fall and winter the stream is about dry, just a little trickle of water under the bridges, but when the snow melts ^{and rushes down} on the mountains in the ~~spring~~ ^{spring} ~~and rushes wildly down the sides~~, the Daphne River becomes a raging torrent for several weeks.

"It was hard for me to get used to the customs when I returned, some of which I had almost forgotten. One was the closing of all the stores and businesses at 1 p. m. and not opening until 5 p. m. But after I was there a little while, I slept in the afternoon, just like the rest of them. The natives do not care much for progress - all they want is to live in peace, without argument, and let alone. There are few law-breakers. A man's wife is his own,

and his daughters go free and unmolested. That terrible thing that just happened down at Miami the early part of this week, the luring away of the two young nightclub girls on the promise of tests for screen and radio contracts, the rape and murder of one in the swamp near Boca Raton -- it would be impossible for such a thing as that to take place anywhere in Greece. That fiend would have been gotten rid of long before this.

"One humorous instance I remember on my 1926 visit, I went into a cafe in Athens. I saw an American party poring over a Greek Menu and went to their table, politely offering to be of assistance, as I knew the language. The head waiter had his eyes on me, and as he heard our conversation, he walked over with the same menu printed in good old American, and said in English - 'I beg your pardon, I should have given you this card.' I felt rather cheap, but we all laughed.

"Getting back to the doctors again - my old town would make two towns the size of our neighboring village of Baldwin, and I bet Baldwin has fifteen doctors, and all of them quite busy.

"The Greeks are fond of fish and other seafood. This helps them to vary the menu. Sparta, the seaport, is only a few miles away, and when the men go out with their seines bringing in their catches of fish, the people go to the fish markets on the beach and make their selection. No fish are ever put on ice, that is an unknown custom. Those not disposed of that day, are no good the next, and either go back into the sea or are used, buried for fertilizer.

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"Of the better known Greeks in Jacksonville there are: James and Gus Poulos; Gus Folos, and (he spelled) K-a-r-l-o-g-e-r-a-k-o-s - he's got a name about a yard long.

"The oldest Greek settler in Duval County was John Cornies. He came here about 1900, was here before the terrible fire of May, 1901. He has two sons, Andrew and John, who still live here. He came first to Charleston, South Carolina, where he married a German woman. They had a big family, but I do not know of any of the children but Andrew and John.

"Old John Kokorus works for the Gantt Fish Company. He lost about a million dollars in the diving business at Tarpon Springs. He always felt so sorry for the young Greeks when they came over here, and was too lenient with them. If they were not careful or went down too often or stayed too long under water they got the dreadful 'bends' and he used to say, 'Let them take what they can get, they deserve it.' Mr. Cheney used to argue with him, and say - 'John, your money is invested in this; take your share, or you'll go broke.'

"Sure enough, he did go broke, but he is an interesting character to talk to - when he's sober. About seven of John's children are here - that is his boy waiting on the tables and the grey-eyed black haired girl hostess in the back there, watching everything for me, is his daughter.

"I belong to the local lodge of the B. P. O. E. (Elks)., to Post No. 9 of the American Legion here, and to the Ahepa, local branch of the national Hellenic association for the pro-

George Stathis (in Brown)
+ Andrew Koronios as the first
residents - 1889. Possibly the last
named to the same persons as

motion of Greek citizenship in the United States and looking after their welfare. We see that they become naturalized, that they understand and obey the laws of America, and become an asset to the community in which they live.

"Do I know any legends? Well, no. The Greeks are noted for their myths, but I left the old country too young to learn anything like that, and what I had to face was stern reality --- no myths, no culture, no parlor tricks -- just how to earn plain everyday bread and butter -- or bread, anyway -- and a bunk somewhere to sleep in.

"But my wife -- now she keeps up with the old Greek customs -- I want you to go and see her -- go tomorrow -- any time -- she knows myths, legends, poetry, music. She gets regularly a Greek Magazine, and she has a lot of keepsakes and doo-dads of one kind or another. I tell her you come tomorrow."

"But tomorrow is Saturday, a busy day for a housewife. I'll 'phone first, and see if it is convenient, or make an appointment for next week."

"Okeh. Whatever you want to arrange, but she goes to St. Augustine Sunday -- we have a little place at the beach -- so she may want to talk to you after she gets back. She takes the children over there for the week, and I go every night and come back early the next morning.

"Politics? Yes, I know a good deal about local politics. I think President Roosevelt is a grand man, interested in the down-and-out, and he is doing his best to help them and make things better in the United States. But my people here are holding their own; there are no local Greeks that I know of who are on relief."

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(Greek)
Owner of half interest in
DeSota Cafe, West Bay Street;
Jacksonville, Florida.

Interviewed April 4, 1940.

By: Lillian Stedman.

This interview is transcribed and written in language and style as nearly as possible to the manner it was given, in an effort to show you a clear picture of this Greek.

Mr. *Stephanos* is typically dark complexioned, heavy-set and muscular; his hands are large and hairy. He resembles more, a prize-fighter than a cook. He wears heavy, horn-rimmed eye-glasses and looks straight at you while talking.

This interview evidently proved to be an occasion of interest to Mr. *Stephanos* as I called as usual, at his business this morning and although he was not busy at the time he explained that he would be free at 2:0'clock and suggested that he would prefer to come to the office.

When he arrived at half past two he had already been home and shaved, bathed and dressed; the powder after his shave was still quite visible in spots, and he had with him the fragrance of a recent bath.

Before I could explain the purpose of the interview he had begun his discourse and praises of his native Greece. As he talked, and his emotions were free, there appeared a sense of irritation with him, because of his inability to express himself as he would. And as he talked, the effort became more and more visible, for he would cross and uncross his legs and pull at his sleeves.

a population of about 33,000, the island has a mileage of 70,000 square, and has a capitol with about 17,000 people. There are 7 islands to Greece, but my part is owned ~~is~~ since 1862 by England and that makes us have the custome like the country of England. Sometimes, we still have a little thing yet that belongs to our own country, and no place else. Like this: the mother of a pretty litt le girl baby put a black spot on her neck back of her ear, or maybe a little way on the neck; that is for to keep it from making men sick when they see

a pretty girl, You heard that it makes a man sick to see a girl when he is too pretty?

" But all over Greece the people like the color of Green They like to wear it when they can. And sometimes the bride use green to marry in; that will bring her good luck. It is good luck to ~~the~~ marry in green. It is good luck too to have the girl get a lot of presents. Everybody over in the old country always give to the bride something.

" The father of the bride, he give to the son-in-law what he can, sometimes it is a cow or some goats. whatever he can give depends on how rich he is.

"I n my country, we eat anything we want to eat like in this country: we eat Syrian, Italian and Turkish food, but everything is fresh, we have no ice. We put the live fish in the market and sell him before he gets dead. We eat the billy goat in the summer; but we drink the goat milk all the year 'round: they bring the goat right up in front of the house and milk out as much as you want and if th t goat does not have enough for you, then they go get another one

" Our country is a rich and beautiful country and that is the reason that it is called the flower of the East! We produce a lot of grapes and fruits of many names; the flowers are so beautiful and there is every kind that you have here and (putting his hand to a little withered pansy on his lapel) these violets they grow so much more bigger and all different colors and a lot bigger than this one. You have never seen so many flowers as we have in the beautiful Greece.

" I have not been back to my hme since I got here, I come here in 1911 and go right in to the resturant business; I have seen Jacksonville have plenty of luck nd plenty of bad luck too. I have had some of it also. But I have had enough good luck to send home to my mother ever since I come to this country \$20,00 a month to live on, she is 92 years old; I guess I will not see her again because I dont see how I can go to see her for a long time. She is well cared for though. I hear from her regualry once a month. I have two nephews there that were born here in this city.

#3

" We are going to have an Easter Celebration this month, our Easter this time is on a different date from the one you celebrated. Our religious calender is set just 3 days after the Jewish calender. And another thing that is peculiar to you I guess, is the fact that all our Easter eggs are colored either pink or red which means that we are rejoiced and happy about the resurrection of the Lord.

I am thinking about adopting a little brby cause we did not have any for twenty years so I dont think that we are going to have any. But sometimes I get to thinking about adopting a baby I get worried to death. I am seeing everyday people that ave children and they do not have good children. They cant make them mind them. I have a lot of religious books at my house and I think I could make a good child boy out of him. I got a good woman that would make a good mother for him. I have never had any toruble since I got married; I got married the next day after I saw my wife. I saw her walking downt the street and I liked it and I said to a friend of mine, ' you go telll her that I want to marry her and tell her all about me, see if she does like the idea and then you come let me kno what she say' if she like me then I am going to get married to her right away. I waited until she tell him sat she like the idea alrigh Then I go to see her and we go down the courthouse to get the liseac^e and the next day we go to the churcha and get married by the preacher. We been married now for 20 years and I have not s oken a cross word to and will not ever speak one to her if I live with her for a 100 years.

" Sure I believe in love in first sight, but + know the old country they used not care if they love d each other or not; the father of the daughter lets the boy know that he likes him and thenhe tells his daughter that he thinks that he should be the man for her then they bring them together and get them engaged to one another and then they dont see one another again for 3 days then they get married. I think they get along just as well though as they do with all the courting. For both of them are nice and pure and young and Greek people get married to stay not to get divorces. Theythink of one another and they women dontrun a ound there like they do here in this country. Personally though I like a little romance for my daughter if ~~###~~ I had one; it leaves nice memories and sweet things to think about.

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Clemon Vallis, (Greek)
Owner of half interest
in Tasty Coney Island
Forsyth and Ocean St.
Jacksonville, Florida.
Interviewed April 8, 194

Mr. Vallis is a very busy man. He has only recently opened this new business and he is giving his best attentions to it. Mr. Vallis serves his customers personally whenever possible. The place is immaculately clean and the general air is attractive and inviting.

Between his busy moment of taking cash, serving and welcoming customers, he tries to give us the information we wish concerning his native island. Mr. Vallis seems to take a real pleasure in helping us with the customs and superstitions of his native island of Samos. He is of slender build and light-complexioned, with light brown hair and blue eyes. He has a low speaking voice and uses good grammar, although his pronunciation is poor. However his effort to have his thoughts understood is appreciated.

I shall let Mr. Vallis tell in his own words the customs that he remembers being carried out by his own family.

"There is a little dance that belongs to our own island, we created it our selves. This dance is used at weddings when the ladies who lead the dance sing to the bridegroom and sing songs of the beauty of the bride. This is supposed to bring good luck to the couple and give them a long and happy married life. There are people from that Island in this city who have the little dance when they having a good time or at weddings.

" In Samos there are many caves that the ancients have left while they were building the forts there to fortify the country. These caves are large and in front of some of them churches have been built. In one of the caves there is water dripping and no body has ever been able to find where the water comes from. The water has caused a recess in the rocks and these pools are considered holy and will heal all kinds of disease. The religious people from all over the island believe that the water there is holy. Some people that have come to this country and have been taken ill with diseases that the doctors could not cure have gone all the way back there for help and some claim that they got well while bathing in the water. There has been built a beautiful church at the front of the cave. This church was built from the offerings of people that believe in the superstition. This church is named in honor of the mother of Jesus at her death.

" Another one is this: Our island is a stoney country and in one of the mountainsides there is a man's footprint, the religious people believe that Jesus left his footprint there to serve as a reminder to them that he walked that way and suffered the same way men suffer. Of-course this is only believed by the religious people however.

" I can tell you of a good custom that is followed year after on New Year's day. Some one in the family must get up early before the sunrise and go to the spring and bring up a jug of water without speaking to anyone. The family get up and go the church services and after that they go home. The father takes the water and pours it out in front of the house. This is supposed to symbolize the good luck that will come to the house as the water flows. Then he takes a fruit that is like the pomegranite that you have here, (it may be the same thing for all that I know) and he breaks it open and gives all the children some of it and the mother also, he then kisses the mother and the children kiss each other. This is to mean that they will go on loving as they did at first. This is all done before breakfast.

" Our island was in possession of the Turkish government for a long time but when we decided to win the Autonomy and we did in 1821 and joined with the fatherland, that caused us to mix our customs somewhat with the entire country of Greece. But like the people in

the different sections of this country, speaking with a different accent or dialect, so in our country we speak differently. The same difference perhaps that the northern and southern people detect. The people of my island cut their words short. And sometimes because of being so close to Asia Minor we speak the Turkish language. Since the island is under the government of Greece and the education of children is being enforced they do not speak the Turkish language any more. It is a law that parents must give them the education that is equivalent to the high school education of this country.

" There is still another superstition that is followed regularly and faithfully in my island. Every door is open on New Years Day to all the people in the community. There is cakes and wine and plenty of good things to eat set on the table for everyone. They are welcome to come without a special invitation. This is symbolical of the peace and good will that is to exist between them for the coming year.

" There are many more that might be interesting to you; maybe if I ask my wife she can think of something. She came from the same island, maybe she may remember more of them than I do she has only been here for a little more than 6 years. I sent the money to her to come to this country and I met her in New York. She does not speak the English very well and I think it is best for her to stay away from the business until she learns to speak the language better. Some people seem to think that if a person can't speak the language and have to speak Greek that she is talking about them. My wife is going to school to learn the English then I will like to have her back in the business. She used to help me in the business on Bay Street but this business has a better class of trade.

" I hire some nice girls, maybe they speak Greek and maybe not, it is the service that I want and not their race. They must look nice and be clean.

" Mr Vallis is a subscriber to the Daily Worker, the Communist paper. He talks politics with his friends in a serious and business like manner. He is president of the local order of the Ahepa and appears to be alert to all the news of the nation and his home city.

This interview is unfinished, perhaps Mr. Vallis can give us more valuable information, he has promised to give us some pictures.

March 28, 1940.

Mrs. - Ostdman

The meeting of the Daughters of Penelope was held in the rear of the church, this space is usually used as the school-room as well as the place of meeting for the members of the Aheps.

This meeting was attended by only eight of the 21 members. The sister of the president was announcing her engagement ~~####~~ and that accounted for the poor attendance, said one of the girls.

They appeared to be a happy and intelligent group, well up on all the "news of the times". We were particularly impressed with the fine ideas expressed by some of them; when asked about their thoughts concerning intermingling with the American boys one quickly spoke up and said, "all it hurts our parents bad enough for any of ^{us} going out with our own Greek boys and we just do not wish to hurt them more by going out with American boys when we know that nothing can ever come of it". "And too why, should we cultivate a friendship that we will hate to give up, it would only hurt us all for nothing."

And thus they appear satisfied to wait for fate to bring the right one along, one said, "And they do seem to come along even though they come from other cities. You see we have a convention each year of the Aheps and people come from all over the country. In this was we are brought together and make new acquaintances."

Evelyn Vallis said, "Our parents often give us parties and the boys and girls dance and play games. One of the mothers is giving us a party next week. Our parents join in our pleasure and enjoy themselves. We all have a good time at the weddings that is always a gala time for all the Greeks in the city."

Sofies Sarantaza said. "We as a group stick together very closely, and I don't believe there is one girl in the group that has one American friend that she holds as close as she holds her Greek friends. We have seen how close the women friends are and we hope to be just that close when we grow up, it is so nice to have good friends, they are such a help."

The older Greek women, said "Mary Cororis", are just like sisters and the older Greek men are just like brothers, you never hear of them having fussing and quarreling among themselves.

"And as a whole lot, the Greeks in every community are like a large family."

Hathleen Pappas said, "There is one thing that we think is very strange about you American, now I don't mean any harm to say this but it seems to most of us that you American are very selfish. We are so sorry for our friends that when they have trouble we do something about it, we will give them money to help them out. It just seems the natural thing to do. But you American take the troubles of friends as nothing but, (with a little shrug of her shoulders) just their own hard luck."

Speaking of the boys again, Sofie Sarantaza said, "The American boys are so fast until a Greek girl is afraid to go out with them even if her parents would allow her, and there are some very fast Greek boys; but, mostly a Greek boy will respect a Greek girl if she respects herself. Of-course there is I guess good and bad in all kinds of people. The Greek girls are not the ones that criticise the girls if she does what is not just right, they always uphold them and try to stick together; but it is our parents that make us treat them cool, and if they come a chance to go any place they won't let us go. It is however, the

Megas

Helen Megas said, "I am taking a commercial course at Andrew Jackson High School; I expect to get a secretarial position when I finish my training. I think I would be happier to work than to stay at home. But that is an American custom that we have acquired; our parents in their young days would never think of letting the daughters work in the business world. Times have changed though for most of the Greeks in that line. They think now if it is necessary for the girl to work and it will make her happier they do not mind. But my daddy would not permit me to keep late dates even if I should go to work and take care of my ownself.

There were nine girls present namely: Joyce Econmou, Sofie Sarantaza, Mary Cocoris, Goldie Alexander, Bessie Mastrogiankis, Penny Patrinely, Marguriette Serrilis, Kathleen Pappas and Helen Megas.

" There are 7 islands in the country: but Corfu is the largest one of them all. I have traveled all over the country and like the whole country very much. It is true that the customs are varied and different in all of them. But the church is the same every where.

" Sure I think it would be a good thing for the church to unite with the Episcopal church for here is not much difference in the religion of them. We are trying and teaching our boys to speak the English service and the Greek. We honor a few more Saints than the Episcopal Church does. But that is the only thing that makes any difference.

" Would you like some pictures for your book of the my home and the places of interest there? I got a lot of fine pictures I will bring you some down

An Example of Greek Hospitality

Desphina, Greece
May 27, 1902

THIS AFTERNOON I crossed the valley from Arachova, and climbed up to a village which seemed to invite me to adventure. Nor was adventure lacking. I was met outside the town by three old men, who shook hands with me solemnly and gave me a grave welcome. They abandoned their errand, whatever it was, and turned back to do the honors of the village for me.

The place was in festival, owing to the marriage of the demarch's daughter: the boys, dressed in their Sunday best, were dancing under a great plane-tree in the public square, at the side of an old church, while the women and girls looked on in dazzling groups.

As soon as they heard that a stranger had come, dropped from Mars or the moon, all other business was suspended, and I found myself the centre of attraction for the rest of the afternoon. I was never so fêted and toasted and done grace to since I came home from the Crusade with Barbarossa. The demarch (mayor), the bridegroom, the bride, the priest, the town-clerk, the inn-keeper, and other persons whose callings and dignities I could but dimly guess, plied me with sweetmeats and questions, took me from house to house for varying hospitalities, and finally insisted on my staying all night, with a promise that I should be conducted back to Delphi the next day by a delegation of chosen youths.

This sounds like exaggeration, no doubt, but I assure you it is all true. It has been really a touching experience, and has taught me something about the *gentilezza* of the human heart when it is still innocent and primitive.

Tonight there will be more dancing, by torchlight, and some mysterious solemnities which my very meagre stock of Greek doesn't enable me to understand, in spite of elaborate explanations. I wish you were here to kiss the bride, and to lead the women's dance—the *Xopos yuvalxwv*—which is to be danced, while I foot it with the lads.—WILLIAM VAUGHN MOODY, in "Letters to Harriet," edited by PERCY MACKAYE. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin.)

Mrs. Marie Marise, Greek school teacher. Has been teaching for the past 10 years, her classes are from 8 until 2 and she has enrolled at the present time, 40 pupils, however she states that the attendance is poorer during some weeks than others depending upon the school assignments given by the regular school. The percentage is good though running around thirty every day.

Mrs. Marise runs her home on her salary and is unable to save any of her money, although her husband has a store and appears to be a success, he does not tell his wife about his finances nor does he contribute to the upkeep of the house in any way except for partially paying for groceries. She says, "I am afraid there is some one else that he is caring for, for he does not act like he loves me any more, I am a good mind to go to a fortune teller to have my life told me, I try not to believe in it but some time I need some comfort and I don't get any from my friends they all say, "O you are foolish, he is saving his money and some day you will see."

Mrs. Marise is small and very dark, her face is sad and she wears black a great deal. She says, "I love the children, it has been good to teach them; I enjoy the work but I am tired of working. I wish my husband would say that he would take care of the house and the boys so that I could quit work."

I noticed that her house was quite bare but comfortable. She was hospitable and kindly. She offered some refreshment in the form of wine and cookies.

The house had much furniture but looked tired and old. This work she said was done by her mother in the old country. Saying that she had been the only one to go to the school and

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I noticed that her house was quite bare but comfortable. She was hospitable and kind. She offered some refreshment in the form of wine and cookies.

The house had much handwork displayed throughout it. This work she said was done by her mother in the old country. Saying that she had little time to do any and teach school and keep her own home.

The children are allowed to enter the Greek school at the same age that they enter regular school; the little ones are taught to count and and to read primers in Greek. These stories are now being written in a single story to interest the little folk. This was not done however until a few years ago. In the second year they take up the study of Geography and History.

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